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GUN SALES, REVIEWS, & INFORMATION

JANUARY 2024

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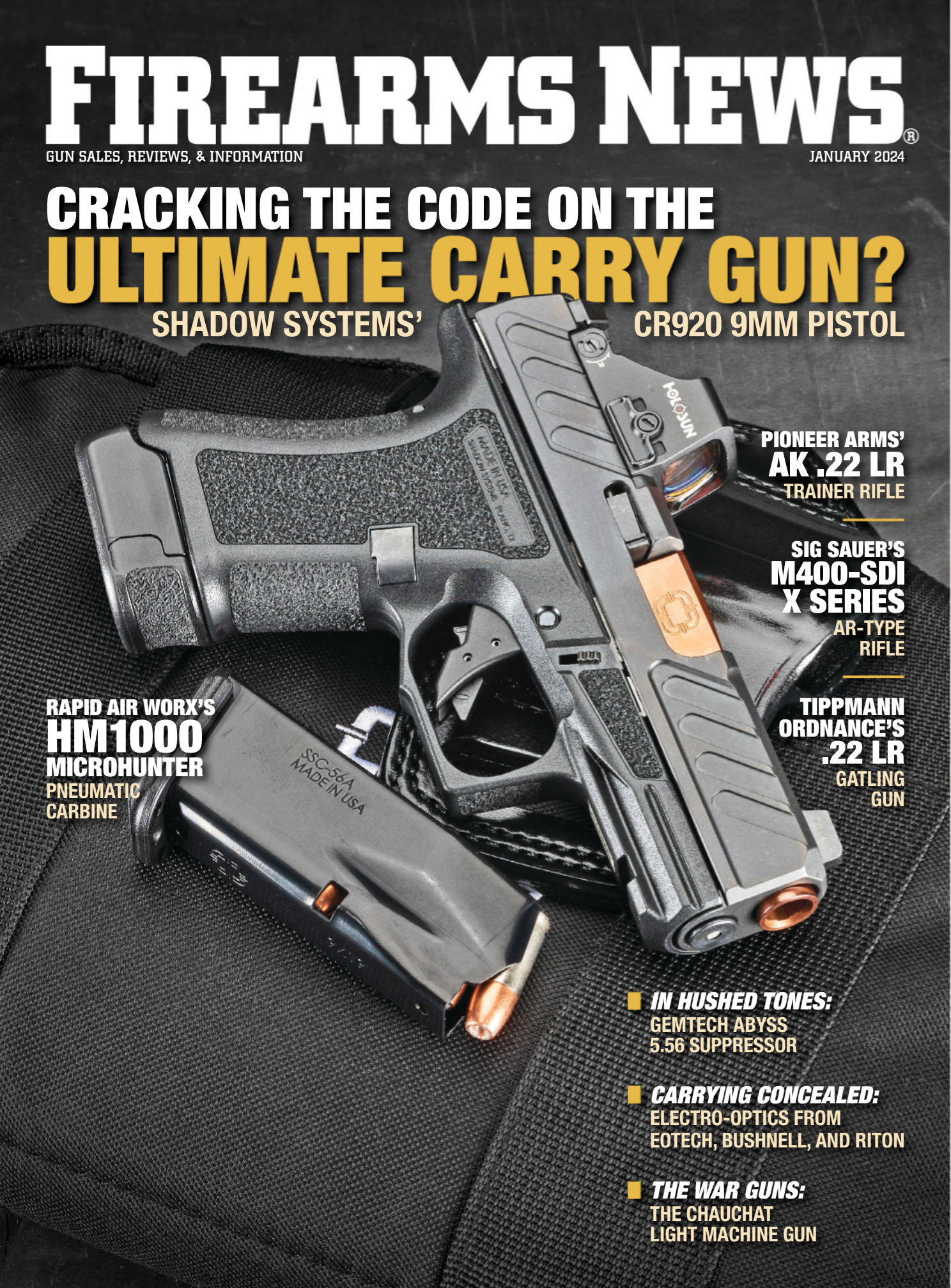

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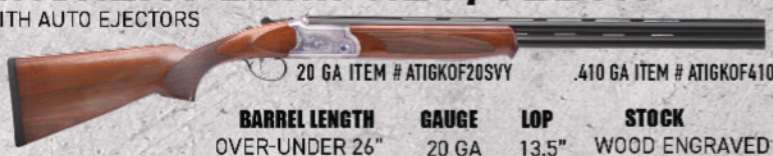

20 GA ITEM # ATIGKOF20SVY .410 GA ITEM # ATIGKOF410SVY

BARREL LENGTH	GAUGE	LOP	STOCK
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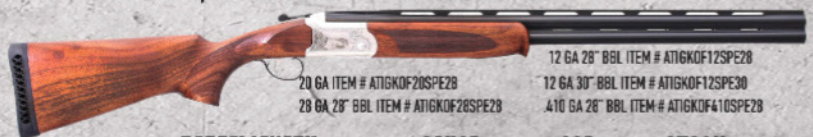

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JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 78, ISSUE 1

Cover photography by Mike Anschuetz

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8 NEWSSTAND
Recent News for the Firearms Community
Mark Chesnut

10 POLITICS
Not Content to Eviscerate the Second Amendment, Gun-Grabbers Go After the First
David Codrea

14 *IN HUSHED TONES*
Gemtech Abyss 5.56
Patrick Sweeney

24 *THE WAR GUNS*
Fusil Mitrailleur Modéle 1915 AKA: The Chauchat
Paul Scarlata

32 *CARRYING CONCEALED*
Unexpected Electro-Optics
James Tarr

38 CRACKING THE CODE ON THE ULTIMATE CARRY GUN?
Shadow Systems' CR920 9mm Pistol
James Tarr

54 PIONEER ARMS AK .22 LR TRAINER!
It Doesn't Just Look Like an AK Pattern Rifle, it IS an AK, But Chambered for the Economical and Fun .22 LR Cartridge!
David M. Fortier

62 SIG SAUER'S M400-SDI X SERIES
A Further Refinement of the AR Theme
Oleg Volk

70 THE TIPPMANN ORDNANCE .22LR GATLING GUN
The Coolest Firearm in the World
Will Dabbs, MD

80 THE RAPID AIR WORX HM1000 MICROHUNTER
A Radically Advanced Compact Pre-Charged Pneumatic Carbine
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RECENT NEWS FOR THE FIREARMS COMMUNITY BY MARK CHESNUT

Freelance writer and editor Mark Chesnut is the owner/editorial director at Red Setter Communications LLC. An avid hunter, shooter and political observer, he has been covering Second Amendment issues and politics on a near-daily basis for the past 25 years.

JUDGE RULES THERE IS NO RIGHT TO BUY A GUN UNDER *BRUEN* STANDARD

By Mark Chesnut

Turning long standing precedent and last year's *Bruen* ruling upside down, a federal judge in Colorado, hearing a lawsuit over the state's three-day waiting period to purchase a gun, recently determined that the Second Amendment does not protect the right to purchase a firearm.

With the *Bruen* ruling setting a new standard for deciding Second Amendment disputes, the case *Rocky Mountain Gun Owners v. Polis* seemed like a sure win for the plaintiffs. After all, the Second Amendment's plain text does cover "an individual's conduct" of owning a firearm, which logically necessitates a purchase. And there's nothing in the "nation's historical tradition of firearms regulation" indicating a three-day waiting period existed anytime around the founding era.

Not content to admit those facts, Judge John L. Kane instead chose to take a strange path in confirming the constitutionality of the waiting period. In the odd ruling, Judge Kane wrote: "[P]urchase and delivery are one means of creating the opportunity to 'have weapons.' The relevant question is whether the plain text covers that specific means. It does not."

In other words, according to 86-year-old jurist, the Second Amendment doesn't protect the right to "purchase" a firearm, just to "keep and bear" one. Which begs the question: If you don't buy a gun, where are you supposed to get it?

In explaining his reasoning, Judge Kane further stretched existing case law to justify his ruling, even though those stretches are equally outlandish. "Even if purchasing a firearm could be read into the terms 'keep' or 'bear,' receipt of a firearm without any delay could not be, as the founders would not have expected instant, widespread availability of the firearm of their choice."

Whoo boy! That's a stretch indeed. It's like saying the First Amendment doesn't protect web-based news because the founders couldn't have expected instant, widespread availability of news.

Moving to the historic tradition question posed by *Bruen*, Judge Kane was also able to rationalize that away—albeit in a very irrational way—linking it to laws prohibiting the carrying of firearms when intoxicated.

"These measures are sufficient to show that our Nation had a historical tradition of regulating the carrying and use of firearms by intoxicated individuals," the judge said, adding, "The Waiting-Period Act and the intoxication laws both work to prevent individuals in a temporary impulsive state from irresponsibly using a firearm."

This ruling is yet another great example of how elections have consequences—even for generations to come. Judge Kane was appointed way back in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter, often called America's worst president until the current Biden Administration set a new precedent.

In the end, it's hard to imagine that Judge Kane's strange ruling won't be overruled on appeal. Alas, we'll have to wait and see how his decision is looked upon by a more neutral court. FN

WAS THE *BRUEN* DECISION REALLY "OUT OF TOUCH"?

By Mark Chesnut

If you listen to the so-called "mainstream" media at all, you've likely heard all the anti-gun hoopla over last year's critical Supreme Court ruling in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*.

"U.S. Supreme Court out of touch with most Americans," read the headline of an op-ed in the *Oregon Capital Chronicle*. Other newspapers and websites followed suit with similar claims.

In defense of those publications, they were actually just printing what gun-ban groups were saying at the time. Upon announcement of the ruling, Michael Bloomberg-funded Everytown for Gun Safety immediately

[Cont. to page 91]

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By David Codrea | Political Field Editor

NOT CONTENT TO EVISCERATE THE SECOND AMENDMENT, GUN-GRABBERS GO AFTER THE FIRST

The firearms industry has been using advertising to galvanize "individuals to engage in unlawful paramilitary or private militia activity" and "who are not in the National Guard, United States armed forces reserves, United States armed forces … to use a firearm-related product for a military-related purpose…"

So says Illinois Public Act 103-0559, duly enacted by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Jay Pritzker to amend the *Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act*.

And the "gun lobby" has been roping in "persons under 18 years of age to unlawfully purchase or possess or use a firearm-related product," even resorting to using "caricatures that reasonably appear to be minors or cartoon characters… offer[ing] brand name merchandise for minors, including, but not limited to, clothing, toys, games, or stuffed animals, that promotes a firearm industry member or firearm-related product … in sizes, colors, or designs that are specifically designed to be used by, or appeal to, minors"!

They say all that like they're serious, like their absurd allegations are evidence-based, like even if it was, they'd have a Constitutional leg to stand on, and like it will have any impact at all on the unchecked carnage occurring overwhelmingly in "gun-free zones" and in Democrat strongholds, where guns are procured by criminals the "old-fashioned way."

Shutterstock by BlueRingMedia

Per a 2019 Bureau of Justice Statistics' survey:

"An estimated 287,400 prisoners had possessed a firearm during their offense. Among these, more than half (56%) had either stolen it (6%), found it at the scene of the crime (7%), or obtained it off the street or from the underground market (43%). Most of the remainder (25%) had obtained it from a family member or friend, or as a gift. Seven percent had purchased it under their own name from a licensed firearm dealer."

There's no "commonsense gun safety law" excuse that holds water here. This is just another in-your-face demonstration of power by a violence monopoly that will brook no dissent from upstarts, beginning with citizens who believe unbendingly that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed, and who take seriously "the supreme Law of the Land's" acknowledgment of what is "necessary to the security of a free State."

While the Illinois Constitution recognizes the Militia consists of "all able-bodied persons residing in the State except those exempted by law," officials there (and not just there) have been derelict, deliberately indifferent, and openly hostile to "organization, equipment and discipline of the militia in conformity with the laws governing the armed forces of the United States." They've intentionally ensured those "able-bodied persons" have remained untrained and unequipped for being called forth. And we've seen how the unprepared have fared in Ukraine and Israel. Any citizens taking it upon themselves to make up for that deliberate oversight and prepare for collectively defending their homes

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and communities will be treated as an insurrectionist threat.

As for the ban on influencing minors, remember that this is coming from a billionaire governor encouraging 16-year-olds to register to vote online (with lowering the voting age a Democrat priority) who "has directly funded 'gender reassignment' of children — meaning they have engaged in experimental surgery to greatly alter the sex organs of children..."

There was a time before school shootings and urban "drive-bys" when toy guns and commercials for them were ubiquitous in the lives of American children, and older ones were enthralled by ads for Daisy BB guns and .22 rifles, replete with cartoon characters like "Blooey," the "gun safety watchdog" from NRA, offering life-protecting safety tips.

Fast forward a few decades and the gun-hating Violence Policy Center was disparaging the "Eddie Eagle" safety program ("Stop. Don't touch. Leave the area. Tell an adult") as "Joe Camel with Feathers."

"NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, filed a legal challenge to Illinois' unconstitutional law that seeks to muzzle firearm manufacturers' and retailers' First Amendment right of free commercial speech and to regulate industry members' commercial conduct in every state of the Union," the National Shooting Sports Foundation announced upon the bills enactment. "The flawed logic of this unconstitutional law is second only to the contempt for which the authors and Governor Pritzker hold for the Constitutionally protected right of the citizens of his state to keep and bear arms… We are confident that this unconstitutional law will not survive."

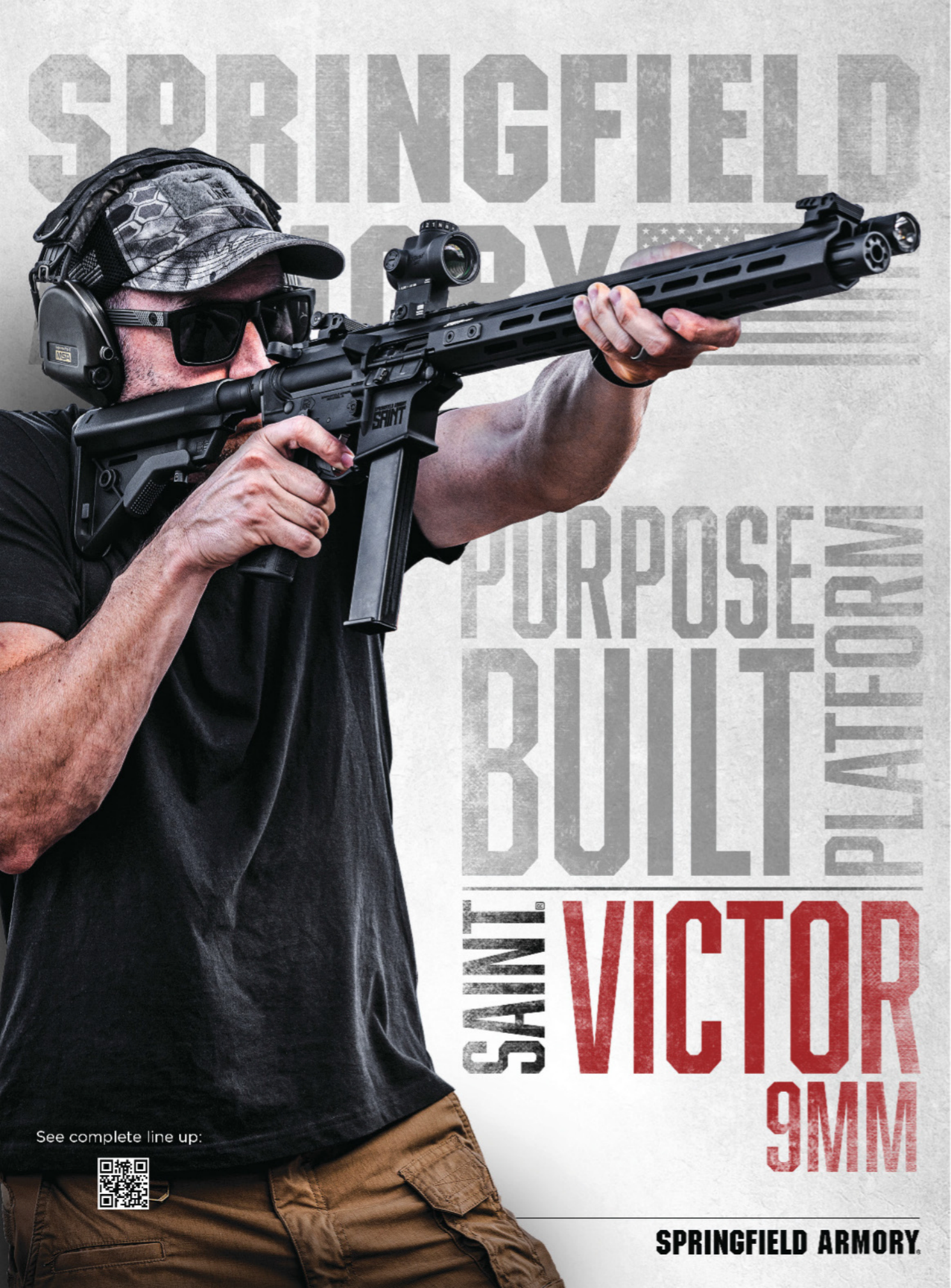
It's true: It affects more than Illinois. Case in point, this magazine not only has ads that could run afoul of the edict, its articles and product reviews could also require disclaimers or exclusions, affecting the rights of the publisher and of readers everywhere. Either that or cease circulation there, including by subscription, which the gun banners wouldn't mind.

NSSF's confidence the law will not survive should be bolstered by the outcome of a lawsuit against a similar California edict.

"[T]he State of California may not attempt to reduce the demand for lawful conduct by suppressing speech favoring that conduct while permitting speech in opposition. That is textbook viewpoint discrimination," Lawrence VanDyke, Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, wrote in his concurring opinion. A unanimous panel decision in *Junior Sports Magazines Inc. v. Bonta* struck down the law prohibiting "advertising firearm-related products 'in a manner that is designed, intended, or reasonably appears to be attractive to minors.'"

What's clear from both the Illinois and the California cases, is prohibitionist Democrats, thwarted by the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, will leave no right unabridged in their totalitarian obsession with controlling everything. And just as with their nose-thumbing of the Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision with various gun and magazine bans and other infringements, they have a virtually unlimited reservoir of tax plunder from which to fill their legal war chests and drag things on for years while those fighting back depend on overburdened grassroots.

If the Republicans don't win big in '24, and if Democrats retain the majority power to make judicial appointments, gun owners ain't seen nothin' yet. FN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The Abyss comes with all the goodies: an ETM, front cap removal adapter, wrench, pouch, storage box and owner's manual.

GEMTECH ABYSS 5.56

OK, the world is simply awash in 5.56 suppressors, so why this? Why now? Why the Abyss 5.56? (Because it just got a big brother in the Abyss 7.62, which is a slightly different kettle of fish.) Why? Because the world can always use a better 5.56 suppressor, that's why.

Gemtech has been around for a long time, and the advances under the name are many. In the process of developing the Abyss, Gemtech filed for and received five different patents, and we are the beneficiaries of those efforts. And in making the Abyss, they wanted to produce a hard-use suppressor that could stand up to whatever you or your rifle could.

Let's start with materials. The stainless steel tube is the sleeve for the baffle stack and the stack is composed of titanium baffles. The steel is 17-4PH, one of the rare stainless alloys that can actually be hardened through heat-treatment. (As an aside, it is also a magnetic stainless, another anomaly, but only of technical interest in its use in suppressors. Yes, I'm a mechanical engineering geek.) It is then given a black Cerakote finish. The baffles are made out of 6AL4V titanium, a heat-treatable titanium alloy, also known as a Grade 5 alloy. This means it is a great combination of being able to be fabricated, be welded, provide strength and be corrosion resistant.

Just in case you were wondering, those are all good things for selecting materials for the inside of a suppressor. Basically, Gemtech selected the gold standards of suppressor alloys

The GM-S1 front cap is removable for cleaning, and it works to both kill muzzle flash and to continue forward-flow of gases.

The gas flow out of the Abyss is obvious, and the lack of gas flow out of the ejection port is equally obvious.

◄ The GM-S1 front cap, and its removal adapter.

► Place the adapter on the GM-S1, and use a regular ratchet wrench to unscrew it.

for use in the Abyss. (And the others in the new lineup; the Abyss 7.62 and the Neutron.)

On the back end, the Abyss has the new industry standard for mounts, the 1.375"-24 HUB mount. This is simply a large-aperture threaded end for the suppressor, into which you can install compatible adapters or mounts from any maker who is also using the .1375-24 HUB system. With this, you can use a direct-thread rear cap, or the Gemtech ETM QD mount. And, since it is the new industry standard, as other makers produce mounts, you'll be able to plug them into the back of the Abyss. Why? Well, once you get into suppressors, you might want to own more than one. (Kind of like chips that way.) Wouldn't it be nice if your various brands could all use the same QD mount?

The ETM is a muzzle brake, as you can see by the flash in the ports. (Mark Fingar photo)

To mount, line up the Abyss mounting groove with the ETM mounting groove, and slide the Abyss fully on.

Then give the Abyss a twist counterclockwise, until it stops. You have mounted your Abyss and are ready to go.

So, the ETM, the Elite Taper Mount of Gemtech? That is the QD mount that Gemtech developed for use with the Abyss (and a Neutron-specific ETM as well) and it is both a mount and a muzzle brake. You get one with the Abyss, and you'll have to go through the usual and proper method of installing a muzzle device, to make sure it is tight (use Rocksett) and square (use flat washers) and timed so the Abyss goes on properly. It is all in the manual. The ETM is also designed so that mounting the suppressor is easy. Line up the rear ETM cap notch with the ETM muzzle device notch. Slip the Abyss on until it stops, and then give it a twist counterclockwise until it stops. You're done. Once you are done shooting, and the Abyss is cool, twist the Abyss clockwise to unlock. Once it stops, slide the Abyss forward off of the mount. Yes, it's that easy.

OK, inside the Abyss, Gemtech has spent a lot of effort designing the baffle stack, so it reduces back pressure. This, while still being quiet. The Abyss, while built for 5.56, and designed to take a lot of it, is also rated for the 5.7x28, as well as the new 6mm ARC. And to give you an idea of how tough they built the Abyss, it is rated for use on 5.56 and 6mm ARC firearms down to a seven-inch barrel, and the 5.7x28 down to three-inch barrels. (That's absurdly short, by the way.)

Now, on the front cap, the GM-S1, Gemtech also performed some trickery. The front cap is designed to minimize muzzle flash, and also to continue the forward flow of gases, adding to the design to reduce back pressure. The GM-S1 is removable, so you can do a better job of cleaning, should you wish to. (Me, I clean my 5.56 suppressors by heating them up enough to burn out any residues, and I don't ever use them on rimfires.)

The Abyss comes with the ETM, the suppressor assembled with the rear cap for use on the ETM, the tool to remove the GM-S1 front cap, an assembly wrench, and an owner's manual. The suppressor is in a nylon pouch, and the whole kit is in a classy storage box, so it will have a safe home in your safe, and not be rattling around with the other gear in there. All you'll have to provide is Rocksett, shims, an alignment rod, and a ratchet wrench if/when you go to remove the GM-S1 front cap.

My introduction to the Abyss was at a range in Florida, courtesy of Gemtech and Smith & Wesson, where I got to thrash the Abyss while it was mounted on the equally new Gemtech GVAC upper. This is a complete upper, also from Gemtech, that is designed itself to reduce back pressure. No, no magic, just good design and engineering, and the two together proved to be a fun combo to shoot. Now, there are times when you really should be jealous of gun writers, such as this time. We had loaner rifles with suppressors, a range to ourselves, and all the ammo we could put through the rifles. So, I proceeded to see how

The empty is on its way, and you can see (or rather, you can't) the lack of ejection port gases that the Abyss provides, at the Florida range. (Mark Fingar photo)

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The ETM, the Elite Taper Mount, is the Gemtech QD muzzle device for mounting the Abyss. It is a muzzle brake, and it is also a very quick QD mount design.

The Abyss is a good-looking, hard-use 5.56 suppressor, and it comes with everything you need to mount it onto your rifle, carbine, SBR or pistol. (Mark Fingar photo)

An SBR with the Abyss is actually shorter than a regular carbine.

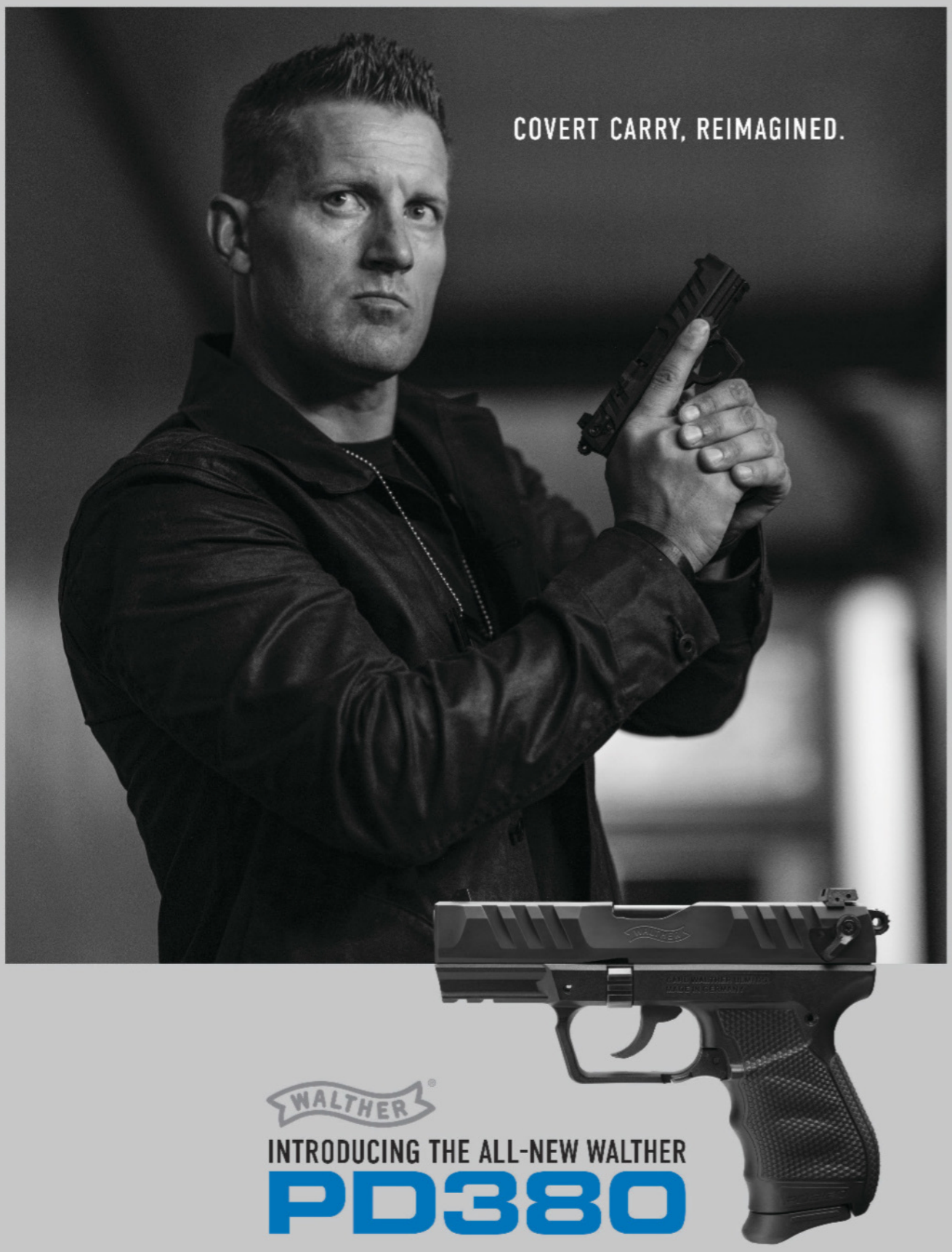
hot I could get the Abyss, and to see if there was any back pressure to pay attention to. The short answers are; very hot, and no. When you have finished a shooting session, then you put the rifle and its suppressor on a bench, and the wood gets scorched by the suppressor, you have heated things up. And the back pressure? Nope.

Now, as a long-time gun writer, I'm always just a bit suspicious. So, I asked for an Abyss I could test back home, because, well, because. I'm a gun writer, which means I'm a professional cynic.

The Abyss arrived in due time, and I spent a bunch of range sessions working it hard. It had arrived with a GVAC upper, so I first tried it on that one. I tried the full gamut of bullet weights, from varmint loads (but I didn't go too low in weight, the GVAC has a twist of 1:8 and I didn't want a varmint grenade grenading inside the Abyss) up to some Black Hills Mk 262 Mod-1C, and they all worked just fine and none of them produced any back pressure that my face could detect. I installed the ETM that came with it, and tried the Abyss on a non-GVAC carbine upper, for the same results; no gas in the face.

However, I'm not the most sensitive when it comes to gas in the face, so I figured I'd make life harder for the Abyss. I wrenched the ETM off of the carbine, and wrenched it onto a short-barreled rifle (SBR) with an 11.5-inch barrel. I figured if I couldn't get back pressure and gas in the face from this combo, then they were onto something. Well, Gemtech is on to something, because it was just as pleasant to shoot as it would be without a suppressor. Well, more fun, actually, as the muzzle blast from an 11.5-inch barrel is problematic just by itself, and using a suppressor to tame that makes it more pleasant. A few loads provided some small puffs now and then, but on other suppressors the SBR is a definite "gas in the face" when suppressed upper. One of these days I'm going to do a test to see what powder/bullet combos produce the most gas-in-the-face awfulness, and then test a slew of suppressors with that load. But that will be later.

The cool thing about a SBR-with-Abyss setup is that it is more than an inch shorter than a vanilla-plain carbine. Of course, it entails $400 worth of tax stamps, but hey, excessive fun comes with a cost, be it firearms or vehicles. The last test, which really wasn't a fair one, was to park the Abyss onto an SBR with a seven-inch barrel. Back pressure? Yes, detectible, but not nearly as obnoxious as that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On a carbine, (in this instance, with the GVAC upper in place) the Abyss brings the AR up to rifle length. It is still a handy and well-balanced combo.

one and all of them in general, usually are. No, scratch that, 5.56 barrels that short are extremely obnoxious, and the two things that makes them worse are putting a muzzle brake or suppressor on them. The Abyss strives mightily, and it makes the bark not quite obnoxious, but the gas system is so short nothing can eliminate back pressure. But the Abyss does a lot more than most, here.

I don't have a 6mm ARC yet to test it on, and the only 5.7x28 firearms I have are not threaded for suppressors. So, it was just 5.56 in this test. And quiet? The Abyss, on the GVAC upper drops the muzzle blast decibel level down below the "hearing safe" level of 140 dB, from bare muzzle 167 dB to 131 dB suppressed. I did have to take a shortcut on the testing. The GVAC comes with the ETM already mounted, and as a muzzle brake it is going to give a higher dB reading than the same barrel with an A1/A2 flash hider. Therefore, I used an otherwise identical setup, with a flash hider, of the base reading, and then measured the Abyss on the GVAC. One thing to consider when looking at decibel readings and comparing to your own situation is the environment. When I'm shooting a suppressed rifle out at the National Guard base, with nothing in my own zip code to reflect the noise, they are quiet. At my home club, where everything is close-by, the supersonic crack gets reflected off of every post, tree, bench and wall. There, they all seem louder. Keep that in mind when you are comparing "what it sounded like" from testing in different locations.

All this for a list price of $849, and the world is your oyster. Oh, one detail, small though it might be. The listed weight is for the bare Abyss. Once you install the QD rear cap, and mount the ETM on your barrel, that will add another 6.9 ounces. This is unavoidable, and every suppressor maker has the same extra weight to get you a QD system. If you really want the lowest weight, the direct-thread rear cap will shave some four ounces off the full-up weight of 21.4 ounces with the QD rear cap and ETM.

As I mentioned in the beginning, the world is simply awash in 5.56 suppressors, but while the choices may seem vast, the good ones are fewer. And the Abyss is one of the good ones. FN

With the QD rear cap, and the ETM, your added weigh to suppress your 5.56 is 21.4 ounces. Really good for a hard-use suppressor.

GEMTECH ABYSS	
Caliber:	5.56x45, 6mm ARC, 5.7x28
Weight:	14.5 oz (bare weight)
Length:	6.1 in.
Diameter:	1.64 in.
Materials:	Stainless steel, titanium
Finish:	High-temp Cerakote
Attachment:	Direct thread & Gemtech ETM
Full Auto Rated:	Yes
dB Reduction:	36 dB
MSRP:	$849
Contact:	(833) 350-9517, Gemtech.com

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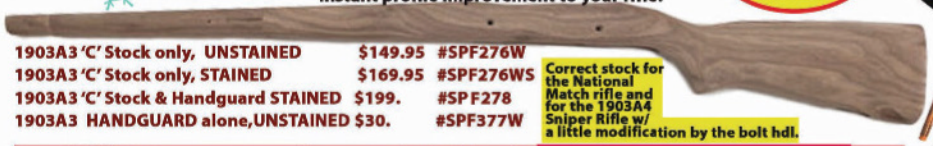

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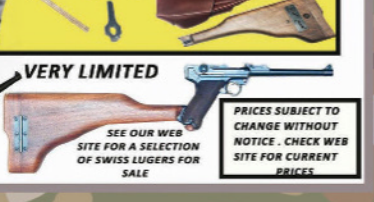

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The French Fusil Mitrailleur Modéle 1915 was the most widely used, and most controversial, machine gun of WWI. Note open sided, curved magazine. (Peter Kokalis photo)

FUSIL MITRAILLEUR MODÉLE 1915[1] AKA: THE CHAUCHAT

The Worst Machine Guns of WWI…Maybe Not?

WWI saw the first wide use machine guns by all of the combatants. Most of these were air- or water-cooled weapons mounted via tripods, and very heavy and cumbersome. The trench style warfare common to the war showed a need for lighter, more maneuverable guns capable of being operated by a crew of two or three soldiers.

The Germans developed the MG08/15, a lightened version of the Maxim, while the British adopted the Mark I Lewis Gun. The French Poilu was "cursed" with what many consider the worse machine gun of WWI, the Fusil Mitrailleur Modéle 1915, better known as the "Chauchat."

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A French machine gun squad armed with Chauchats.

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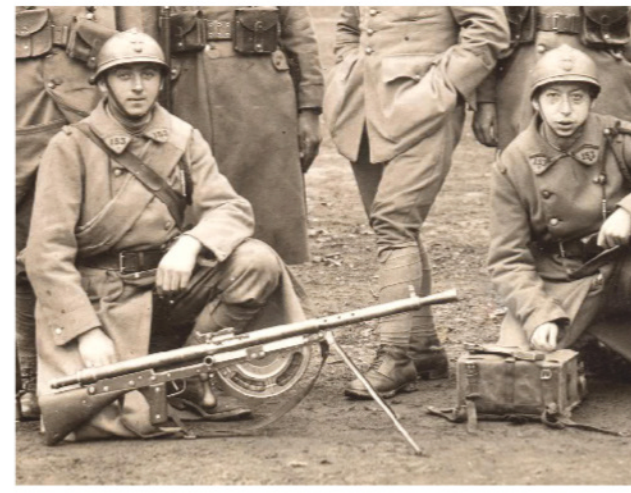
A Chauchat's crew. Note the assistant loader is holding a loaded magazine, ready to insert it into the gun.



1917. French machine gunners. Note the ammo carrier on the right with a box full of loaded magazines.

operating system designed by Colonel Jacques Louis Chauchat, and Charles Sutter of the Puteaux arsenal.

The Modéle 1915 was constructed primarily from sheet metal stampings. The recoiling barrel sleeve, barrel, bolt, and moving parts were precision milled from solid steel and fully interchangeable. It was produced at the Gladiator Usine de Motocyclette et Bicyclette factory in Paris, with many parts supplied by subcontractors.

The names of the designers, plant manager, and factory were combined to produce the weapon's synonym, the C.S.R.G.[2] Overall quality was poor, resulting in less-than-optimal reliability but they could be produced quickly and in large numbers — which was all the French army asked for.

The Modéle 1915 fired from an open bolt and was fed via a twenty round, curved, bottom-mounted magazine whose open sides permitted the gunner to know how many rounds were available but this also allowed dirt and debris to enter the action, to the further detriment of reliability. It was also capable of full or semiauto fire, had a permanently mounted bipod, and could be fired by one man while walking or from the hip.[3] It was lighter than either the German MG08/15 or British Lewis guns, and was operated by a three-man crew: the gunner, the loader and the ammo carrier.[4]

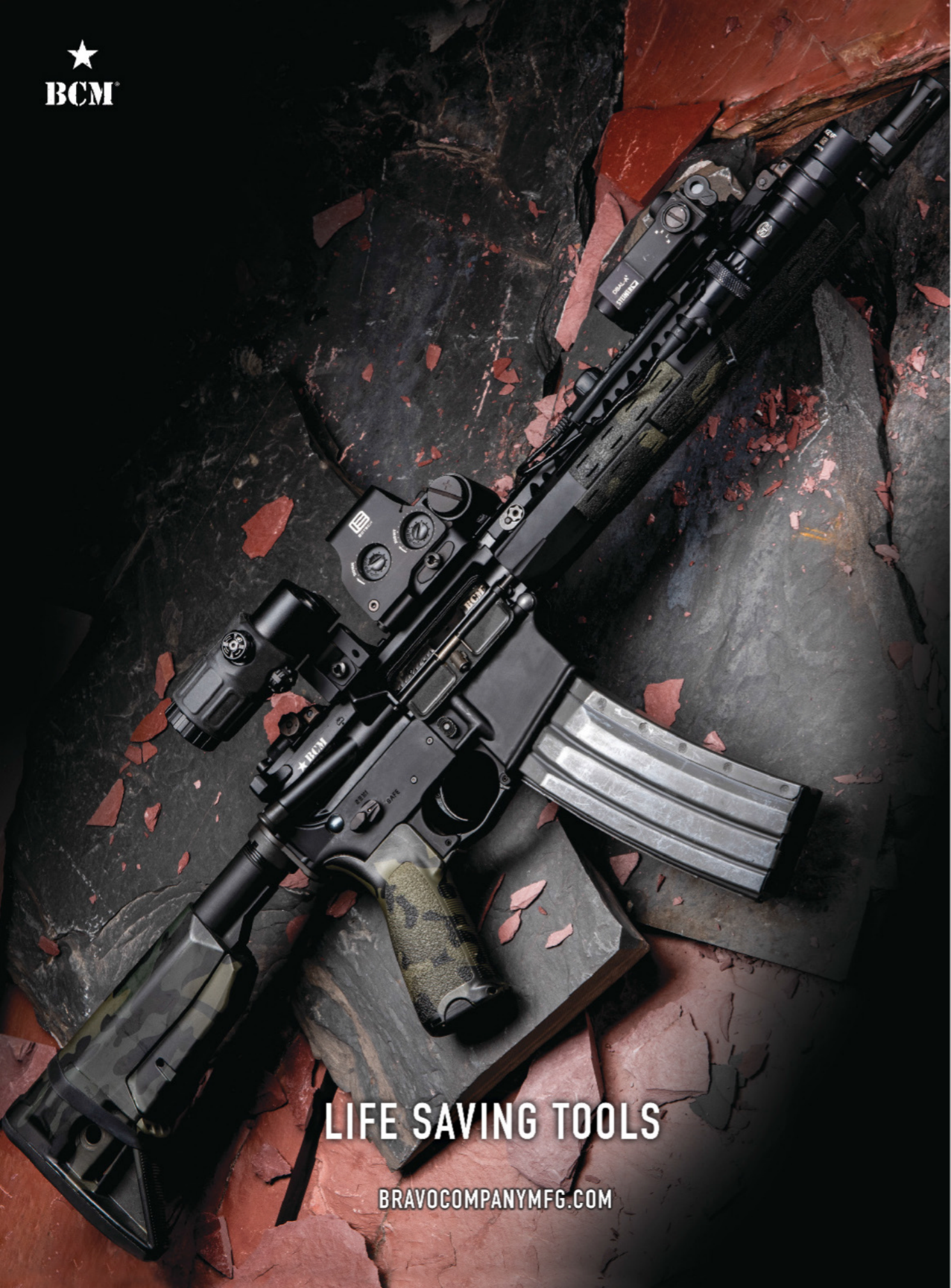
The Chauchat was first fielded in 1916 at the battles of Verdun and the Somme where its effectiveness in "marching fire" impressed General Joffre so much he wrote to the Minister of War requesting the initial order for 55,000 guns be doubled.

Beginning in 1917, additional Modéle 1915s were produced by Forges et Acieries de la Marine a Homecourt, but the design's endemic weaknesses were never corrected.

Because of its long recoil operating system, the Chauchat's functioning was violent which resulted in poor accuracy. Another problem was that the primers of fired cases often backed out, jamming up the mechanism. To prevent this, a special cartridge was developed for the Modèle 1917, the 8mm balle D (a m) (amorcage modifié — modified primer) which used a heavy crimp to secure the primer in place.

French tactics called for Chauchat gunners to suppress enemy machine

WWI Russian soldiers with Chauchat and Colt machine guns.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1918. An American "Doughboy" training with a Chauchat.

gun nests, that would be approached by fire on the move, and destroyed by the combined action of Chauchat automatic fire coming from the sides and VB rifle grenades fired from the front, within less than 200 yards.

During and after WWI the French supplied Chauchats to their allies Belgium, Tsarist Russia, Italy, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Finland and Poland. During WWI the Germans issued some captured guns to their assault troops (Sturmtruppen) numbers of which were converted to fire their standard Patrone 7,9mm S.

Lacking machine guns, when the U.S. entered the conflict, they purchased large numbers of Chauchats… much to the disgust of the American Doughboys.

While the French Poilu generally had a good opinion of the Chauchat, the Americans, who dubbed it the "sho-sho" — hated it. They complained about it because it was awkward to carry compared to their Springfield M1903 bolt action rifle. The bigger issue is that the original Chauchats issued to the Americans weren't fresh from the factory but were weapons that had been used hard for a year or two in the hell that was the trenches of the Western Front and were badly worn.

In addition, the Americans weren't issued cleaning kits for the weapons and few of them were given limited or no formal training in its maintenance.

The Americans were issued 5,988 8mm Chauchats. Later, a further 19,241 Model 1918 Chauchats chambered in the US .30-06 service cartridge were issued. It was the M1918 that contributed much to the Chachat's poor reputation.

The American Chauchats suffered from a raft of issues with failures to extract being one of the first problems discovered. The guns were poorly made with the chambers not properly sized for the American round. It has also been suggested that the .30-06, which was more powerful than French 8mm (although only marginally), strained the guns' receivers compounding problems. American troops quickly came to distrust the M1918 more than the original and were known to discard malfunctioning guns.

To sum up, the American soldiers were provided a foreign-made weapon that had been used and likely even

An American issue M1918 Chauchat. Note the curved, sixteen-round magazine. (Rock Island Auction Co.)

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American soldiers practicing "Marching Fire" with Chauchats. Note the loader following each gunner.

abused and had little training with it. There were no English-language manuals and the French instructors seemed indifferent at best about helping their new Allies.[5]

By the end of WWI, in excess of 268,000 Chauchats had been produced, making it the most produced automatic weapon of the war.

During WWII, some Chauchats were issued to French reserve units, the Belgian, Polish, Greek and Yugoslavian armies while some captured guns were used by German Waffen SS units. FN

—

1. Fusil Mitrailleur translates as "Automatic Rifle.
2. HONOR BOUND. THE CHAUCHAT MACHINE RIFLE. Cobourg, Ontario: Collector Grade Publications, pp. 22-23.
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marching_fire
4. The assistant loader was trained to swap out empty magazines for loaded ones while the gunner maintained control of the gun.
5. https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/french-chauchat-was-filled-problems-it-was-not-worst-machine-gun-ever-162749

FUSIL MITRAILLEUR MODÉLE 1915	
Caliber:	8mm balle 1898 D & 8mm balle D (am)
Overall Length:	45 in.
Barrel Length:	18.5 in.
Weight:	18 lbs. (unloaded)
Magazine:	20-rd. detachable box
Sights:	Front: Inverted V blade, Rear: V notch adj. by tangent from 200 to 2,000 meters
Rate of Fire:	250–300 rpm

WWII German soldiers training with captured Chauchats.

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By James Tarr | Field Editor

There are a number of quality red dots out there you might not be aware of—including this EOTech EFLX, which uses a Leupold DeltaPoint Pro footprint.

UNEXPECTED ELECTRO-OPTICS

Pistol-mounted red dots are the new hotness. Everyone seems to want one on their CCW pistol, and so a lot of companies are jumping on that bandwagon. But in-between the segment-leading electro-optics from Trijicon, Holosun, Aimpoint, etc., and the bargain-basement Chinesium clones packed full of stolen intellectual property, there are a number of quality products on the market you might not have heard of.

EOTech (EOTechInc.com)

The first is the EFLX Mini Red Dot Sight from EOTech (EOTechInc.com). Yes, that EOTech. They came out with the EFLX last year, but I've heard so little about it I had to double-check that they were still in fact making it. I guess since most of their business is the full-size EOTech HWS they aren't spending much of their marketing budget on the EFLX.

Three new handgun optics you might not be aware of, from left—RITON 3 Tactix EED, Bushnell RXS-250, and the EOTech EFLX.

The EOTech EFLX is an all-aluminum open-emitter mini red dot optic with glass lens, which uses a Leupold DeltaPoint Pro footprint. Brief detour—both this and the next optic, the Bushnell RXS-250, use the Leupold DeltaPoint Pro footprint. Compared to the Trijicon RMR the DPP footprint is a bit bigger, which allows for a bigger

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Compared to its more famous HWS, EOTech's EFLX is tiny. But try mounting an HWS to a carry gun...

Bushnell's RXS-250 has a beefy hood to protect the glass lens, and comes with a Weaver/picatinny rail mount, which is a nice extra. It uses a Leupold DPP footprint.

optic. The window can be wider. Considering the biggest disadvantage to a red dot sighting system for your handgun is losing the dot in the window, a bigger window is a good idea.

The EFLX is advertised as "assembled in the USA," which means some of the components are manufactured elsewhere, but final assembly is done in EOTech's facility in America, to the same standards as their HWS.

The EFLX is available in black or FDE, with a 3 or 6 MOA dot. The window is the closest to a pure unadulterated rectangle that I've seen on a red dot. The glass measures 0.95" x 0.75" and is clear with no visible tint. Overall, the optic is 1.9" x 1.2" x 1" and weighs 1.4 ounces. The EFLX has eight daylight brightness settings and one NV. I was shipped a 3 MOA reticle sample optic, and at its brightest setting it was more than useful outside on a bright sunny day.

The optic has 1 MOA windage and elevation click adjustments. Power is provided by a CR2032 battery that is top-loaded, so you don't have to remove the optic and lose your zero to change the battery. Battery life is an advertised 25,000 hours for a 3 MOA dot at level 5. The brightness controls are rubberized buttons on the left side of the optic. MSRP on the EOTech EFLX is $389.

Bushnell (Bushnell.com)

Bushnell has several new mini red dots. Their RXM-300 has a huge 28mm x 24mm window, but I honestly think it is bigger than what most people will want to mount to their carry pistols. For this column, I'm looking at their RXS-250, which is an open-emitter red dot sight.

The RXS-250 has an aluminum housing with a clear glass lens. This optic has a 4 MOA red dot reticle and uses a Leupold DeltaPoint Pro footprint, although it also ships with a low picatinny (MIL STD 1913) rail mount. It has 1 MOA windage and elevation adjustments.

While the housing of the optic is flat across the top, the window itself is arched, so you've got beefy corners in the optic to handle impacts. The window measures 0.94" x 0.75", and overall, the optic is 1.9" x 1.21" x 1.05". It weighs 1.5 ounces with the battery installed, about the same as the EOTech EFLX, and is nearly the same size, which isn't surprising as they are both built for the same footprint.

The Bushnell RXS-250 has ten brightness settings, including two that are NV compatible. The optic has an automatic 12-hour shutoff if no buttons are pushed, but this can be deactivated. As the Bushnell uses a

Seen here is everything you get with Bushnell's RXS-250. There's definitely a lot of value added with his optic.

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The RITON 3 Tactix EED in front compared to the Aimpoint ACRO in back. Both use the same mounting interface. Enclosed red dots do better with rain and dirt.

RITON's EED ships with two adapter plates, one for the Glock MOS and another for the Shield RMSc plate, which is a nice addition.

more efficient point-source LED emitter, the battery life on the optic is 50,000 hours at a medium setting. There are rubberized controls on either side of the housing—an up arrow on the left, and down arrow on the right. The battery is top-loaded, and the optic has an IP67 waterproof rating, which means it is able to withstand water hose and jet sprays and being submerged up to thirty minutes. The sight is also drop tested/rated to MIL-STD-810H standards.

This optic ships as a package—you get the optic, a battery, a low rail mount, a rubber cover, a lens cloth, and two small tools to do everything you need to, from replacing the battery to zeroing the sight. MSRP on the RXS-250 is $249.99.

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RITON (RitonOptics.com)

Last on the list is the brand new RITON 3 Tactix EED. If you haven't heard of them, RITON is a relatively new optics company that offers inexpensive optics that are getting a lot of attention. The 3 Tactix is a line of optics, and the EED is an enclosed emitter dot sight meant to fit on an Aimpoint ACRO base.

Enclosed red dots have distinct advantages to exposed emitter types. If drops of water get on the inside of the lens of an open red dot optic, no dot. If dirt gets in front of the emitter on an open optic, no dot. Their disadvantage is they tend to be big and blocky.

The optic has a 3 MOA dot and ten brightness settings. The optic has an aluminum housing with glass lenses. The lenses do not have any visible tint. It is powered by one CR2032 battery which loads in the top. The window is not quite square, 0.81" wide by 0.65" tall.

Both the EOTech EFLX and Bushnell RXS-250 have very slight magnification, due to the curvature of the lens, but barely enough to be noticeable. The Riton EED has no discernible magnification. Interestingly, even though it appears bigger than the two optics above due to its boxy design, it is in fact not as long and a tiny bit narrower. Without a battery it weighs 1.5 ounces.

Brightness controls are small rubberized buttons on the left side of the optic body. This optic ships with two adapter plates, one for the Glock MOS and another for the Shield RMSc plate, which is a nice addition. The 3 Tactix EED has an MSRP of $349.99. FN

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CRACKING THE CODE ON THE ULTIMATE CARRY GUN?

Shadow Systems' CR920 9mm Pistol

By James Tarr Cover and lead photo by Mike Anschuetz

This is a review of the new Shadow Systems Corp. CR920 pistol, but as Shadow Systems makes Glock-pattern guns, it's impossible to honestly talk about their products without referencing the Glock models from which they've sprung. Glock, for all their success, has a long track record of ignoring commercial consumer feedback and consistently producing guns that are 90% of what they should be, which is why so many companies are now making better Glocks than Glock. Think of the Shadow Systems CR920 as a combination of all the best features of the newer Glock 43 and the older Glock 26, while being better than either of them. FYI, CR stands for "Covert Role," and this is a pistol purpose-built for concealed carry.

If you've heard of the CR920, you might be a bit confused why I'm mentioning the Glock 26, as Shadow Systems advertise it as fitting into Glock 43 holsters, not Glock 26. The G43 is a subcompact, single-stack six-shot 9mm. The G26 is a double-stack 10-shot 9mm. While being roughly the dimensions of the Glock 43, the SSC CR920 is a double-stack 9mm—it comes with one flush 10-round magazine, and one extended 13-round magazine.

There are three versions of the CR920—the standard Combat model, the optics-ready Combat Optic model as seen here, and the CR920 Elite, which features additional slide texturing and ports machined into the slide. Both are available either with black nitrided barrels or as seen here, sporting barrels with a bronze TiCN (titanium carbo-nitride) coating.

The CR920 has a 3.41-inch barrel, and overall is 6.37-inches long and 4.27-inches tall with a flush magazine in place. But the real magic is in the width of the gun. People love the G43, G43X, and G48 due to their slimline frames. They feel good in the hand and are easy to conceal carry.

The slimline G43 according to my calipers is 1.03-inches thick at its fattest point. The CR920, on the other hand, is 1.06-inches thick at its fattest point, and your hand can't tell the difference between 1.03" and 1.06." But while being basically the same width, the SSC CR920 holds 10 shots where the G43 only holds 6. If you insert the extended magazine into the CR920 it offers 13+1 capacity while still being shorter than the 10+1 G43X.

This isn't magic. Both the 43 and 43X are fed by a fat single-column magazine—there's room for more ammo inside the grip, but Glock doesn't use it. SSC does, by using a steel-bodied magazine with no wasted space.

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Whether you think of it as a slimmed-down G26, or a G43 with double-digit capacity, Shadow Systems' CR920 is a small Glock-pattern pistol with upgraded features, meant to maximize the subcompact category.

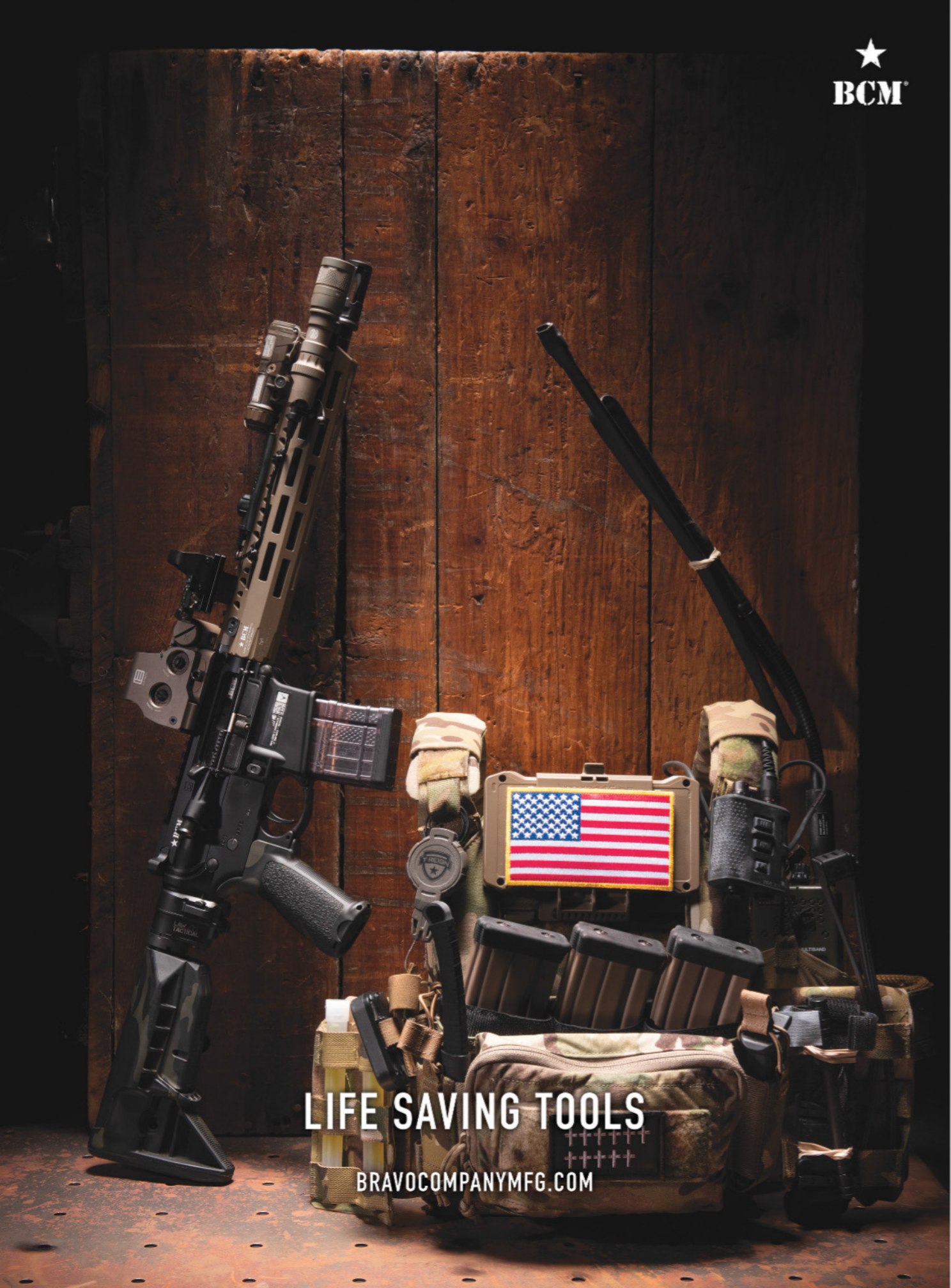
Let's start back at the beginning—the CR920 is a polymer-framed, striker-fired 9mm pistol. It is supplied with one flush 10- and one extended 13-round magazine. Striker Systems Corp. (SSC) produces Glock-pattern guns, and all of their other models use Glock Gen 3-pattern internals. Like a lot of people, I think the Glock design pretty much peaked with the Gen 3, so I'm okay with this. This pistol, on the other hand, follows the later designs, and you'll only see one frame pin through the locking block above the trigger, unlike the two pins of the Gen 3 guns. Weight with the empty 10-round magazine in place is officially 17.8 ounces; my scale put it at 18.0 ounces even.

The dimensions above state how thick the CR920 is at its fattest point, which isn't fat at all. This is a very flat gun, and most of the frame and slide are just under an inch thick. With the flush magazine in place this gun is small and light enough to fit into a pocket, although it had better be a big pocket. However, because this pistol has no external safety other than the lever on the trigger, you shouldn't carry it in such a manner that anything can get wedged inside the trigger guard and cause an accidental discharge. Which means keep it in a holster if it's in a backpack or a purse. If it's in a pocket it should be inside a holster, but if you're not going to do that, it should be the ONLY thing in that pocket, so that nothing can get inside that trigger guard.

Both the front and rear of the slide sport aggressive, flat-bottomed, angled serrations. In fact, most of the slide is textured. The Elite model has texturing on the top of the slide as well, but that's more for looks than function. As is the spiral fluting on the outside of the Elite's barrel, and the ports on the Elite's slide. There's nothing wrong with

The CR920 is optics ready, and with the extended magazine in place it is a 13+1 9mm with top-of-the-line features.

The CR920 ships with one flush 10- and one extended 13-round magazine. The extended magazine allows you to get your whole hand on the gun.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With the flush 10-rounder in place the CR920 is very concealable, but you'll only be able to get two fingers on the grip.

There are several variations of the CR920. The CR920 Elite as seen here has slide ports, a fluted barrel, and serrations atop the slide.

having a pretty gun—factory Glocks are soul-crushingly ugly and boring; their beauty is in their performance. But there's no reason you can't have looks and performance….

As a general rule, Glock never makes any changes to their guns until *not* changing something will cost them military or law enforcement contracts. Historically, they have completely ignored the desires of the American commercial market, their biggest consumer, which is a psychopathy I find fascinating, although they seem to be trying to do better. One continued disappointment with Glock pistols is their standard sights, which 1. Are plastic, and 2. Feature an improperly sized/positioned dot on the front sight. Shadow Systems has always put great sights on their pistols, which was never true for Glock until the FBI demanded AmeriGlo day/night sights on their contract guns.

The day/night sights on the CR920 are steel, made for Shadow Systems by Night Fision. The front sight has a tritium insert, surrounded by a bright green ring. Just an FYI, if you're new to tritium—it is a radioactive element that glows green in darkness and is consumer safe, inside a stainless steel cylinder with a glass lens at the end to release the illumination. It has a half-life of about ten years. After ten years, likely that front sight glow will have faded significantly—but that green ring will still be bright.

The rear sight is plain black and serrated, the corners shaved to reduce snagging. These sights are full-size, not reduced models for a tiny gun, and allow you to shoot up to the capabilities of the pistol.

Another brief aside—even though red dots on guns are the cool hip thing, you should still know how to run iron sights, and with iron sights, the front sight is everything. You should be focusing on the front sight, as where it is, so too will the bullets fly. Bright inserts on your front sight are good, as they help you see it and keep track of it at speed. The rear sight, on the other hand, should be thought of as a window frame; you should be looking through it at the front sight. Anything on the rear sight which distracts your eye from the front sight generally should be avoided, which is the long way around for me to say I'm perfectly okay with plain black rear sights.

This Combat Optic version of the CR920 is optics ready. It is delivered with a steel plate mounted atop the slide. Remove that, and you'll see the slide is set up for direct mounting of optics using the Shield RMS-c or Holosun 507K footprint. The slide is only 0.85" wide, so full-size optics like the Trijicon RMR won't fit on it without hanging over both sides. Personally, I think mounting red dots on concealed carry pistols, especially subcompact concealed carry pistols meant to be used at spitting distance, is a mistake, but the customer wants what the customer wants.

Shadow Systems also sells a factory ported version, the CR920P as seen here. But once you slap a comp, optic, and light on your subcompact pistol… it's no longer a subcompact.

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The CR920 on the right, compared to the direct competitor Glock 43X on the left (seen here is an LTT custom 43X). The 10-shot G43X is a bit taller than the CR920 with its 13-shot magazine in place.

I mounted a Holosun 507K to the slide, and it sits low enough that you can use the sights through the window, which is a good thing. The only thing a battery can be guaranteed to do is die, usually at the most inopportune moment.

A brief explanation of my position—red dots are incrementally more accurate than iron sights, but that is irrelevant at any realistic defensive range, which is even shorter when talking subcompact pistols. What isn't irrelevant is speed, even though a dot is "simpler" to use than iron sights, most people are no faster, and in fact slower using a red dot at realistic defensive distances, as it takes them longer to find the dot in the window of their optic both before and while shooting. In the meantime, that optic has mounting screws that can loosen, electronics that can fail, and a battery that is guaranteed to fail at some point. All of this while compromising concealability. Handgun optics currently, in my opinion, have more disadvantages than advantages, although the balance has gradually been shifting. But they're cool, and everybody wants to be cool. And there's this—the cooler you think your gun is, the more likely you are to practice with it, and carry it, so being optics-ready is definitely a net positive. But…

This seems a perfect spot to point out that Shadow Systems also sells the CR920P—this is the CR920 equipped with a barrel-mounted compensator which extends the length of the pistol by half an inch or so. Have you noticed how everyone is selling compensated guns? Ever wonder why? Sure, comped guns are cool, but that's not the driving force behind this sudden influx of them—the driving force is people mounting red dots on their carry guns, and then losing their dots as they're shooting. They're trying to solve that problem with more gear—a compensator that

Most of the CR920's slide and frame are aggressively textured for better manipulation under stress, and to keep it from moving in your hand while shooting.

Tarr thinks the bronze TiCN coating on the barrel looks closer to copper but does like its looks. The trigger is slightly curved, with a flat face and the expected safety lever in the center.

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◄ The Combat model of the CR920 has a standard slide. The Combat Optic model, as seen here, is optics ready, and ships with a removable steel plate.

► The slide is cut for RMS-c/Holosun 507k-pattern optics. The Holosun sits low enough that Tarr could see his sights through the window.

◄ The Night Fision day/night front sight works great. The green is visible if there's any light at all, and the tritium insert in the center glows in the dark.

► The magazine well is lightly beveled. The texturing on the grip doesn't look like much but is the right amount of aggressive.

reduces muzzle rise and lowers the chances of them losing their dot. The phrase "redoubling your effort after losing sight of your goal" comes to mind. But again, comped and red dot-sighted guns are cool, and if having a cool gun is what it takes to get you to carry the darn thing, I'm all for that. First rule of a gunfight—HAVE A GUN.

Slide-to-frame-to-barrel fit on SSC guns has always been very good. The bronze titanium carbo-nitride coating SSC puts on their barrels has always looked more like copper to me than bronze, but I do really love the color contrast of it with the black nitride finish on the slide. The more you shoot it, the darker it will get, and with enough rounds downrange it should look closer to bronze than copper. And I would argue that bronze color is, in fact "tactical"—the only time the bad guy is going to see it is when it's pointed at him, and then the bronze coating will make the muzzle look bigger…

This pistol utilizes a double recoil spring system, with a stainless-steel guide rod. Those springs do help absorb some of the recoil, to make this gun more shootable, but that means you'll definitely appreciate all those slide serrations when it's time to rack the slide, as it requires some force. The magazine springs were quite stiff as well; getting the last round in took a bit of effort.

The slide stop is a standard model. It locks the slide back, but is small and flat enough to the gun that using it as a slide release really doesn't work. The magazine release is a serrated rectangular steel button that is reversible. It is very low profile, and you shouldn't have any issues accidentally ejecting magazines. At the bottom of the frame you'll see the magazine well opening is very slightly flared, and there is a nice bevel at the front to help guide the magazine in.

Shadow Systems has specced a slightly heavier trigger pull for this gun than their larger models. Factory spec for the CR920 is a trigger pull between 4.5 to 5.0-pounds. Trigger pull on my sample, fresh out of the box, was 5.5 pounds, but I know that will lighten up by at least a quarter pound after a couple hundred rounds. While that is heavier than I would want on my personal gun, it is perfectly acceptable for a subcompact defensive pistol.

The trigger itself is polymer, with a gently-curving, flat face and the expected safety lever in the center. Trigger pull weight aside, trigger pull quality was pure Glock sproinkiness, exactly what you would expect.

The frame of the CR920 sports all the same tweaks and upgrades from Glock factory as SSC's other pistols, except one—this pistol does not have interchangeable backstraps. They just didn't feel there was enough length on the gun to make them worthwhile. They did specifically tailor the length of the backstrap on this gun—you'll see it protrudes as far down in back as the basepad of the flush magazine. They did this to provide a bit more control and comfort.

The texturing on the front, back, and sides of the grip is nicely aggressive, and you shouldn't have any problems with this pistol moving in your hand. There is identical texturing on the front of the trigger guard. You'll also see texturing and a small lip on either side of the frame above the front of the trigger guard—this is where the thumb of your support hand goes while shooting with a proper two-handed grip, and again is designed to provide a little bit of extra control on a small gun.

At the front of the frame is a single slot accessory rail. There's enough room on the gun for one of the compact

◄ The 10-shot Glock 43X magazine on the left. It is a master class in wasted space. On the right is the CR920's 13-round magazine, which uses a 10-shot steel body with an extended base pad.

► Every bit of the CR920 is made in America. The magazine release is reversible.

tactical lights, which is a nice feature that would be useful if this gun pulls double duty as a home defense weapon. As for carrying this pistol with a weapon light attached, let me ask a question to get you thinking; as a private citizen carrying this pistol concealed out in the world, explain to me exactly why you'd need a weapon-mounted light and (much more importantly) how you'd actually use it without violating one of the four basic gun safety rules. I'm not saying don't do it—I'm saying think about what you're doing. Think about what you might do, and how you'd use that light in a defensive encounter. Before you find yourself in the middle of such a situation.

At the back of the frame you'll see a beavertail that is reduced in size—SSC calls it their "intelligently designed beavertail" which is big enough to protect your hand but not so big it makes the gun print any more.

If you don't understand why SSC went with an all-metal magazine for the CR920, let me briefly explain. Steel magazines have the thinnest side walls of any type of magazine, which means they have the most internal volume for their external dimensions. Which is the opposite of a Glock factory magazine, which has a thick polymer body with a steel liner. The double-column steel magazine of the CR920 is 0.80" wide; the fat single column magazine of the G43/43X/48 is 0.79", and yet there is enough room inside the CR920's magazine for a true double column of cartridges.

Shadow Systems is far from the first company to notice the capacity failure of the Glock 43 magazines. Shield Arms makes an all-metal magazine for the G43X/G48 that increases capacity from 10 to 15, although you'll also need to swap out your magazine release to use them in your Glock. SSC didn't go with these magazines because they don't work with the reversible magazine release of the SSC guns. They also didn't want to use the Shield S15 magazine because it is longer than what they wanted for their subcompact pistol. So, they designed their own magazine.

The CR920 magazine has a steel body with numbered index holes on the back (4, 6, 8, and 10). The follower is polymer and bright orange. The 13-round magazine uses the same steel body as the 10-rounder, but with an extended basepad. The basepad is very well designed from an ergonomic standpoint. It has a curve at the front that works as a finger groove for your pinkie, and it sports the same texturing as the front strap.

A comparison of similarly-sized pistols—the Shadow Systems CR920 (top) with 13-round magazine, a 10-shot LTT custom Glock 43X (middle), and a 2012-era 7-shot S&W Shield.

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The textured areas at the front of the frame are for the thumb of your support hand. The pistol has a single-slot rail for mounting lights.

The double recoil spring of the CR920 reduces recoil but adds a bit of resistance when cycling the slide.

Shadow Systems does sell the extended basepad separately (for $15.74), so you can just have two 13-rounders. As I write this, they are currently sold out on the website, which should tell you how popular they are. If you want additional magazines, they are reasonably priced, somewhere under $30 depending on capacity.

With the flush magazine in place, the CR920 suffers from the same issue that handicapped the Glock 26, 27, 43…you can only get two fingers on the grip. Not only does this feel awkward, it definitely compromises shootability. Yes, the gun is more concealable with that magazine in place, but at what cost? How about you carry a gun you can actually freakin' shoot?

With the extended magazine in place, I can get my whole hand on the gun and shoot it with full control. No, it's not quite as concealable, but it's close. I've always carried bigger guns and dressed around them, and even with the extended magazine in place this is a small, easily concealable gun, so if this was my gun I'd stuff it with the 13-rounder, buy a spare extended basepad for the second magazine, and run it like that. The same capacity as a Browning Hi-Power in a gun darn near half the size and weight? Hell yeah.

I've neglected to mention something yet which is important to Shadow Systems, located in Plano, TX—their guns are made in the U.S. They make a point of this, that every part and piece of their pistols is made in the U.S. This is why they ship the other models of their pistols with American-made Magpul magazines. The magazines for the CR920 are clearly marked MADE IN USA.

If you look at the numbers, you'll see the CR920 is slightly bigger in every dimension than the SIG P365, which currently is the gold standard of subcompact carry guns. With the 13-round magazine in place it is almost exactly the same size as the 10-shot Glock 43X, while offering superior features and controls—which was kinda the point.

At the range the CR920 provided no surprises. First off, physics don't care about your feelings. Size matters, as does weight. Even with the extended magazine in place, allowing you to get your whole hand on the gun, the CR920 only weighs 18 ounces, so it is a bit snappy. Especially with +P ammunition. That said, it was a lot of fun to shoot. Reliability was 100%, but I have to be honest—other than loading it up a few times just to see if it worked, I had no interest in using the 10-round magazine. Almost all of my shooting was done with the 13-round magazine in place.

Tarr hammering steel at his local club. The pistol was a bit snappy due to its light weight but handled very well.

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◀ **Black Hills' 115-grain EXP load is a bit hotter than standard ammo, but not quite a +P, and seems well-suited to a subcompact. It posted good groups, including this 3.25-inch effort.**

▶ **Hornady's 147-grain Subsonic offering loaded with their XTP JHP is always accurate, averaging about three-inch groups, but Tarr somehow pulled off a freak 1.75-inch group with it.**

I practiced controlled pairs and hammers on IDPA targets, and knocked down my club's various steel targets, plate racks and Pepper Poppers. The bright front sight of the CR920 worked great. The CR920 did not perform like a subcompact pistol, it performed like a mid-size pistol, with the capacity to match, with a tiny bit more recoil. As this pistol fits into holsters made for the Glock 43, you should have no problem finding a holster for it.

Pistols, at least when compared to shotguns and rifles, suck as fight stoppers. This is due to a lack of velocity, and while faster +P loads often perform incrementally better on bad guys, they also recoil more, especially in smaller guns. So, I find it perfectly acceptable to load your carry gun with standard pressure ammunition, which (theoretically) should allow you to shoot faster and more accurately. Many ammunition makers offer mild defensive loads specifically tailored to perform well out of shorter barrels, including Hornady's Critical Defense line. Federal's 150-grain HST Micro was one of my favorites, but unfortunately, I see that it's been discontinued—but if you can find some on your gun store shelf, buy it, as it is very soft shooting and penetrates deeply. Or send it to me for my birthday, which as you read this will be coming up soon…

The Glock 26 was always too short for how thick it was, or too fat for its length. The magazine extensions Glock offered helped, but not as much as they should. The Glock 43, on the other hand, was thinner and felt better in the hand, but was too short and had inexcusably low capacity—it was ten years out of date when it was introduced. Glock did a lot better with the 43X, combining the 43's short slide with a longer grip and a magazine that held 10 rounds, but still it took American after marketers (Shield Arms with their 15-round magazine) to properly maximize that gun. Like I said at the start of this article, Glock produces guns which are 90% of what they should be. That is not the case with the CR920. After handling, examining, and shooting it, I'm not sure if I can think of a single way in which it could be improved. Considering how picky I am, that's saying something.

There are so many great carry guns on the market that some people are, understandably, overwhelmed. I would and have carried most of them. Shadow Systems Corp. isn't as well-known as some companies, and the CR920 is more expensive than some competing guns, but in its size/weight class it's as good as anything out there, and better than most. You are getting what you pay for. FN

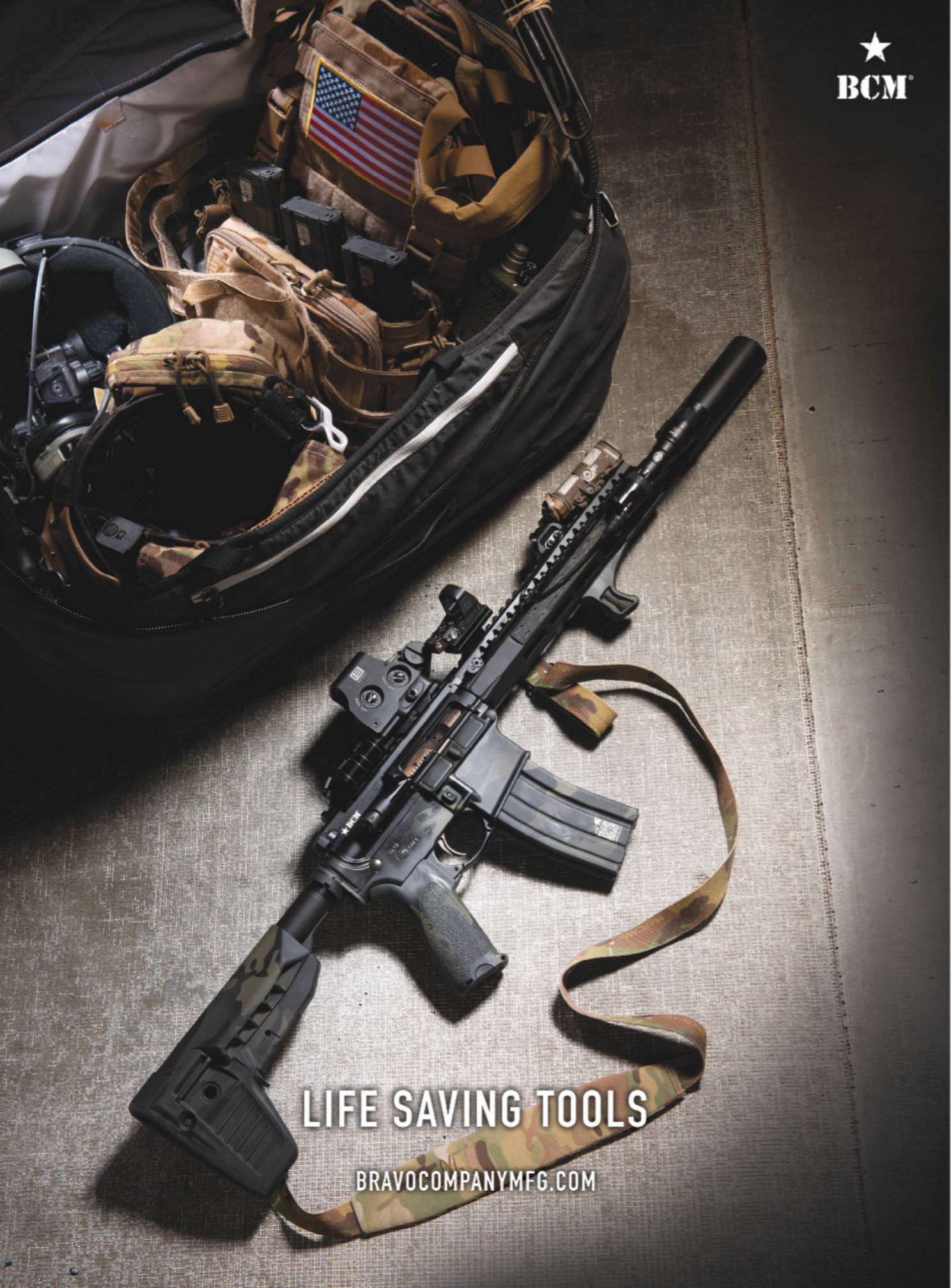
SHADOW SYSTEMS CR920

Load	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Velocity (fps)	SD	Avg Group (in.)
Wolf FMJ	115	1,147	28	4.2
Black Hills EXP	115	1,151	16	3.6
Sierra THD	124	1,044	18	3.8
Hornady Subsonic XTP	147	903	19	3.3

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.

SHADOW SYSTEMS CR920

Type:	Striker-fired semi-auto
Caliber:	9mm
Capacity:	10+1, 13+1
Barrel:	3.41 in., black nitride or bronze titanium carbo-nitride (as tested)
Length:	6.37 in.
Height:	4.27 in. (with flush magazine inserted)
Width:	1.06 in.
Weight:	17.8 oz. w/unloaded magazine
Slide:	17-4 stainless steel
Finish:	Black nitride
Grip/Frame:	Polymer
Sights:	Night Fision tritium green front, plain black rear, optics ready
Trigger Pull:	4.5-5.0 lbs. (5.5 lbs. as tested)
Safety:	Trigger lever, striker drop safety
Price:	$799 (CR920 Elite is $940)
Accessories:	One 10- and one 13-round magazine, cable lock
Contact:	(469) 458-6808, ShadowSystemsCorp.com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Pioneer Arms' AK .22 LR Trainer is an AK rifle chambered for the economical .22 Long Rifle cartridge making it inexpensive to shoot and train with. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)

PIONEER ARMS AK .22 LR TRAINER!

It Doesn't Just Look Like an AK Pattern Rifle, it IS an AK, But Chambered for the Economical and Fun .22 LR Cartridge!

By David M. Fortier, Executive Editor

Looking for a solution to high ammunition prices for training? Something a bit more exciting than dry-firing or boring laser training aids? A solution that is practical, economical but also one that is a whole lot of fun? If so, you will want to know about Pioneer Arms' new AK .22 LR Trainer. This is a full-size AKM-type rifle with stamped steel receiver and laminated wood stock but chambered in .22 Long Rifle. Feeding from a 25-round magazine, it is great for recreation while also being a very useful training aid.

Many shooters have been hit hard in the wallet by higher ammunition prices and the Russian ammo ban. Owners of Kalashnikov rifles have been particularly hard hit, with the days of cheap 7.62x39mm and 5.45x39mm ammunition seeming to be over. While there have long been inexpensive and easy to find military and commercial .22 LR conversion kits for 5.56x45mm AR-15 rifles, as well as dedicated .22 LR AR-15-type rifles, AK owners have not had it so easy. Sure, there have been .22 LR rifles which sort of looked like an AK rifle, but nothing done well.

That is until now. Pioneer Arms builds their new AK .22 LR Trainer on their standard 7.62x39mm AKM production line. It looks, feels, and handles like a 7.62x39mm AKM rifle. It is built using many standard AKM parts and uses standard AKM laminated wood furniture. Even the 25-round magazine is shaped and sized like a 7.62x39mm magazine, so it will fit in standard AK magazine pouches.

While the days of cheap 5.45x39mm and 7.62x39mm ammunition may be over, you can still have inexpensive fun with an AK thanks to Pioneer Arms.

The AK .22 LR Trainer looks like an AK because it is built on Pioneer Arms standard 7.62x39mm AK production line they build their military rifles on.

But why would you want a .22 LR AK rifle? Down through the decades, the .22 Long Rifle cartridge has been widely used for marksmanship training by military forces around the world. Its accuracy, light recoil, very mild report and inexpensive cost all made it well-suited for this role. France, Germany, England, the United States, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the USSR and many other countries all fielded .22 LR training rifles and/or .22 LR conversion units.

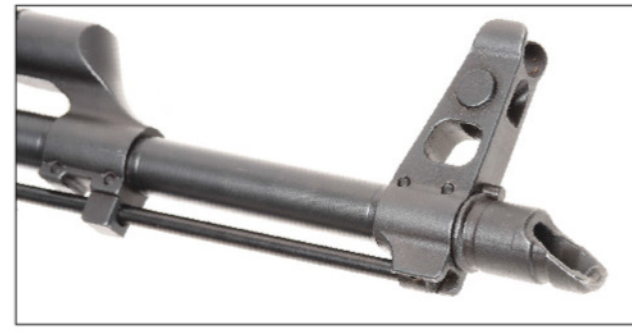
East Germany went beyond the typical bolt-action rimfire trainer though. They designed, manufactured and fielded about 50,000 selective-fire AK-type rifles in .22 LR for training. Designated the KK-MPi 69, these .22 LR rifles were used for marksmanship training, including with youth groups. A dedicated .22 LR load for it was developed by SK Ammunition to enhance reliability on full-automatic. So, the concept certainly has merit.

One of the main reasons why this small rimfire cartridge saw such widespread use was due to the economical practice it allowed. Ten or more .22 LR cartridges could be issued for training for the price of one standard service round, so it made a lot of sense. Today the .22 LR continues to "make sense" financially. It allows the blue collar worker to fire 250 or 500 rounds during a trip to the range without burning a hole in his wallet. A family can spend an enjoyable day together shooting recreationally, even when times are tough and money is hard to come by.

When I first heard of Pioneer Arms' AK .22 LR Trainer, I was interested but worried about reliability. Many .22 LR pistols and rifles are very fussy when it comes to ammunition. So, I was curious if this would be the case with Pioneer Arms' design. I was also curious to see how close it resembled a real AK rifle. How would it feel in the hands and handle?

To find out, I received a Pioneer Arms AK .22 LR Trainer on short-term loan from the company for this review. Taking it out of the box, other than the ejection port area, it looks and feels like a 7.62x39mm AKM. The slant cut muzzle brake, front sight assembly, gas block, gas tube and handguard, rear sight, pistol grip, buttstock, top cover, safety and other parts appear to be standard AK pieces. So, customizing one using aftermarket parts should be easy.

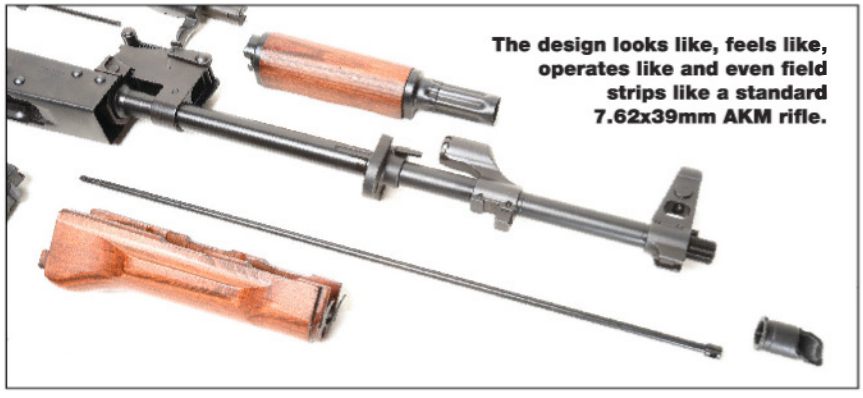
◄ The .22 LR cartridge is economical, accurate and useful for a number of tasks from competition to small game hunting.



► A dedicated .22 LR rifle, it features a 1 turn in 16 inches rifling twist with the muzzle threaded M14x1 LH.

Good looking laminated wood furniture is fitted to this Polish made rimfire rifle.

Rather than being gas operated, this rimfire model uses a conventional blow-back action. The design feeds from a polymer 25-round magazine.


The design looks like, feels like, operates like and even field strips like a standard 7.62x39mm AKM rifle.

The muzzle features standard M14x1 LH threads and is fitted with a slant cut brake. The front sight assembly is a protected post adjustable for elevation and windage. The barrel extends further into the receiver than a 7.62x39mm barrel, and so measures approximately 17 inches in length. Beneath it is a cleaning rod. The furniture is a good-looking laminated wood along with a polymer pistol grip. The buttstock's buttplate does not have a trapdoor for a cleaning kit. The rear sight is your typical sliding tangent with a square notch and is not calibrated for the .22 LR cartridge. The standard AK lever safety design is fitted, but updated with an extended tab for easy manipulation and a cut-out to lock the bolt open.

Rather than being gas operated, this rimfire model uses a conventional blow-back action. It is built on a 4140 stamped metal receiver. If you pop the top cover off, you will note a recoil spring on a guide rod where a normal AK recoil spring assembly would be. Remove this, and the bolt can be pulled to the rear of the receiver and then lifted up and out. The bolt rides on the receiver rails like a standard AK bolt carrier does. The fire control group looks like regular AK pieces but with a lighter hammer spring. So, field stripping it and reassembly can easily be accomplished by anyone that can field strip a regular AK.

The design feeds from a polymer 25-round magazine. This is a robust looking design which mimics the size and shape of a 7.62x39mm AK magazine. It features a cut-out on the sides so you can visually see how many rounds are in the magazine with corresponding marks for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 rounds. The magazine rocks into place, just like a standard AK magazine. The rifle ships with one magazine.

Operation is the same as for a regular AK rifle. The controls are all in the same spot and operate in the same fashion. With the rifle on safe, rock a loaded magazine into place until it locks. With the rifle pointed in a safe direction, move the safety down to the fire position. This will allow you to retract the bolt and chamber a round. Pushing up on the safety will place the rifle on safe. The sight picture is the same as on a regular AKM rifle. Zeroing will be done in a similar manner. Elevation changes are made to the front sight by using a tool to screw it up or down. Windage changes are made by drifting to the front sight assembly left or right. This can be done with an armorer's tool or a simple punch and hammer.

To fire, push the safety down into the fire position. Pressing the trigger will now fire the rifle. The trigger has a bit of

While many .22 LR semi-automatic rifles and pistols are ammunition sensitive, the Pioneer Arms AK .22 LR Trainer proved surprisingly reliable with a variety of loads. (Photo by Ashley Jaderborg)

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ShadowSystemsCorp.com/**HS923**

Here's a five-shot 0.75-inch group fired with CCI's Quiet 22 Semi Auto 45-grain load at 25 yards.

Here is a full 25-round magazine fired on a steel silhouette while running some "Up" drills. Practical accuracy is good.

ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART **PIONEER ARMS AK .22 LR TRAINER**

Load	Velocity (fps)	SD	25 yards (in.)
Federal Punch 29-grain Flat Nose	1,608	14.8	1.3
Remington Golden Bullet 36-grain HP	1,278	1.4	2
SK Standard Plus 40-grain Match	1,005	22.5	1.5
Winchester M22 40-grain RN	1,268	9.7	1
Eley force 42-grain RN	1,215	18.7	1.2
CCI Quiet 22 45-grain RN	894	11.9	.9
Aguila SSS 60-grain RN	909	17.8	1.1

Groups are an average of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 25 yards. Velocity measured at the muzzle with a LabRadar Doppler Chronograph at an ambient temperature of 65 degrees F at 1,030 feet above Sea Level.

"roll" to it, but is actually quite light at approximately 3.5 pounds. When the rifle fires it will automatically extract and eject the spent cartridge case and load a new one into the chamber. Like a real AK, the bolt does not lock-back on the last shot. Retract the bolt and verify the chamber is empty. Pressing the magazine release forward allows the magazine to be removed. If desired, the bolt can be retracted to the rear, and the safety lever pushed up to the Safe position. A notch in the safety lever will then catch the bolt handle, locking the bolt open.

I have a number of dedicated .22 LR AR-15 rifles and they tend to be a bit ammunition sensitive. Most semi-automatic .22 LR pistols and rifles have a preference for certain loads. So, I was interested to see how well Pioneer Arms' AK .22 LR Trainer would actually function. To find out, I first mounted a sling. A sling is to a rifle what a holster is to a pistol. One of my favorites is Savvy Sniper's (SavvySniper.com, 740-492-0100) M4 Marine Corps Sling. This is a really well-designed quick-adjust 1.25-inch wide sling which only costs $44.95. I mounted by running it through the rear sling swivel and used a loop of 550 cord at the front.

Next, I collected a variety of .22 LR loads and hit the range. I began with some relaxed plinking to check operation and get a feel for the rifle. The 25-round magazine loads easily until the last three of four rounds which require a bit more force. Rounds feed smoothly, and extraction and ejection are vigorous. Three friends and I gave the Pioneer Arms AK .22 LR Trainer a good initial workout. About 500 rounds of Remington Golden Bullets, Aguila SE and Winchester's M22 load were fired with zero issues of any type. This was followed up with another 250 rounds of Aguila's 40-grain SE load a couple days later, without issues.

Next, I checked the rifle's accuracy from the bench at 25 yards. This was done using the factory iron sights from a rest with a rear bag. Four five-shot groups were fired with each load and velocity recorded with a LabRadar Doppler chronograph. Seven loads with six different bullet weights ranging from 29 to 60 grains were used for testing. Selected were Aguila's 60-grain SSS, CCI's 45-grain Quiet 22 Semi-Auto, Eley's 42-grain force, Federal's 29-grain Punch Flat Nose, Remington's 36-grain Golden Bullet HP, SK Ammunition's 40-grain Standard Plus Match and Winchester's 40-grain M22. I thought this diverse array of loads would give an idea on what Pioneer Arms' AK .22 LR Trainer is capable of.

The rifle proved very comfortable and fun to shoot from the bench. The trigger is very good, and while it rolls like any AK trigger, it is both smooth and light. The report is mild. Accuracy varied a bit depending up on the load. The best groups of the day were posted with CCI's Quiet 22 Semi Auto and Winchester's M22 which both posted a best of .75 of an inch. Groups across the board typically ran from one to two inches with Remington's 40-grain Golden Bullet HPs not being to the rifle's liking. Function wise, the Pioneer Arms AK .22 LR Trainer was flawless with everything except CCI's 45-grain Quiet 22 Semi Auto. This was the second to the last load tested and the rifle had not been cleaned since the start. It was by this time a bit dirty and three of the low velocity subsonic CCI's failed to fully cycle. Switching to a different load returned flawless operation.

With the bench testing out of the way, I moved to running drills on steel plates and silhouettes from 25 to 100 yards. This is where the AK .22 LR Trainer really shines. I ran drills doing tactical reloads, speed reloads, "Up" drills and practiced my shooting while moving. Next, I practiced traditional position shooting, firing offhand, kneeling, sitting and prone. While doing this, I was careful to take my time, watch my sight picture and mentally "call" each shot. It was a good day on the range, and a lot of fun.

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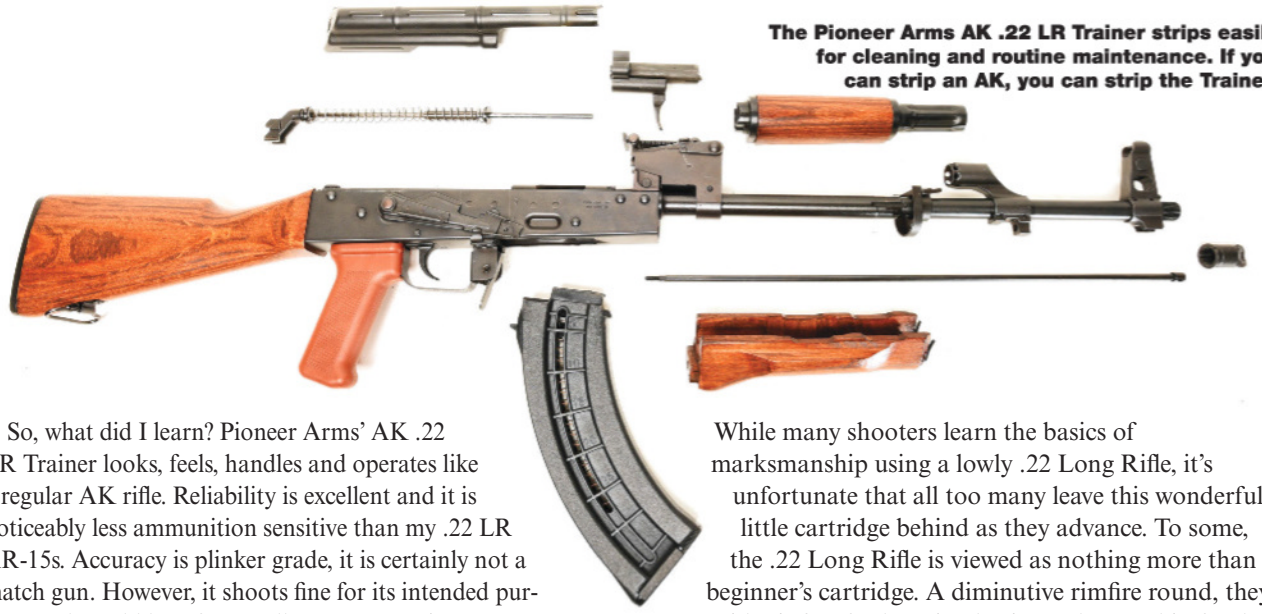

The Pioneer Arms AK .22 LR Trainer strips easily for cleaning and routine maintenance. If you can strip an AK, you can strip the Trainer.

So, what did I learn? Pioneer Arms' AK .22 LR Trainer looks, feels, handles and operates like a regular AK rifle. Reliability is excellent and it is noticeably less ammunition sensitive than my .22 LR AR-15s. Accuracy is plinker grade, it is certainly not a match gun. However, it shoots fine for its intended purpose and would be a fun small game gun. It is very easy to field strip and clean. That said, the test rifle was never cleaned throughout testing and it functioned flawless with all loads except CCI's Quiet 22 Semi Auto. This load only averaged 894 fps, and I think a good cleaning of the rifle's action would have fixed the issue. It's also noteworthy to note that even with cheap bulk pack ammunition I experienced zero ignition problems.

What didn't I like about the rifle? It has no optics rail mounted on the side of the receiver. For some this will be a drawback. Having a rail would allow quick and easy mounting of optical sights. It would also allow the rifleman to easily switch from iron sights to a red dot or a magnified optic and back. It would be nice if it had a trapdoor in the buttplate for a cleaning kit. Other than that, there's really not much to complain about.

Everyone who handled the rifle commented on how attractive the laminated wood furniture is. The fit of the wood is a bit proud of the metal, but it's nicely finished. Plus, since standard AK parts are used in its construction, it is an easy rifle to modify and customize. It would be a simple matter to add a rail, modern side-folding stock, optics mount, different muzzle device and turn it into something resembling a rifle carried by a Russian "Alpha" Team member.

Some may balk at using a semi-automatic .22 LR as a training aid in place of a 7.62x39mm AKM or 5.45x39mm AK-74. Some might feel the difference in recoil negates its usefulness. My reply is they are dead wrong. You can perform a wide variety of drills from basic marksmanship to much more advanced drills with this rifle and learn a lot. My admonition is: do not have a closed mind when it comes to training.

The very mild recoil and report of the Pioneer Arms AK .22 Trainor makes a fun shooting experience for anyone. (Oleg Volk)

While many shooters learn the basics of marksmanship using a lowly .22 Long Rifle, it's unfortunate that all too many leave this wonderful little cartridge behind as they advance. To some, the .22 Long Rifle is viewed as nothing more than a beginner's cartridge. A diminutive rimfire round, they consider it fine for learning basic marksmanship fundamentals on, but nothing more. In my experience this is not only a mistake, but it also fails to grasp the full potential of this versatile little cartridge. I've also noticed that many who began shooting over the past 10 years may not have started on a .22 LR and fail to appreciate the usefulness of this cartridge.

MSRP of the AK .22 LR Trainer is $749.99, and spare 25-round magazines are available for $29.99. Pioneer Arms also offers a muzzle adapter to convert the M14x1 LH threads to 1/2x28 RH. This device costs $25 and will allow you to mount standard AR-15 type muzzle devices and sound suppressors. A good suppressor and subsonic ammunition will make this a very discreet tool. All in all, I found Pioneer Arms AK .22 LR Trainer to be a lot of fun on the range. If you love AK rifles and enjoy economical shooting this is something you may want to consider. FN

PIONEER ARMS AK .22 LR TRAINER	
Caliber:	.22 Long Rifle
Operation:	Blow-Back from Closed Bolt
Barrel:	17 inches with Nitride finish, 1-16 inch twist
Feed:	Detachable 25-round box magazine
Weight:	6.6 lbs. (without magazine)
Trigger:	Single-stage with 3.5 pound pull
Overall Length:	35 in.
Length of Pull:	12.75 in.
Sights:	Protect post front, sliding tangent rear
Finish:	Black Nitride
Price:	$749.99
Contact:	(386) 290-0370, PioneerArmsUS.com

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SIG SAUER'S M400-SDI X SERIES

A Further Refinement of the AR Theme

Text and Photos by Oleg Volk

Sometimes a rifle just works. Fresh out of the box, it runs 100% reliably, shoots accurately, handles comfortably, and basically gives no trouble at all. You zero it, aim, and hit the intended target over and over again. It's a very boring rifle, from the perspective of a writer. Or a very exciting one from the perspective of the marksman. In any case, that rifle is a SIG M400 SDI X series.

I actually lied about this rifle being perfect. It has one minor imperfection, but I will mention it in due time. Out of the box, it's a 16-inch, direct impingement carbine with a lightweight free-floated rail and a collapsible Magpul SL stock. This particular gun came with a SIG Romeo 4SXT-PRO red dot, a very capable closed emitted 1x20mm NVG-compatible optic with selectable Quad reticle, and a 30-round Magpul magazine. Just about the only missing accessory is the sling and a QD receptacle for it.

Well-chamfered edges of the SIG M400 forend are easy on the shooter's hands.

The first thing I noticed were the fully ambidextrous controls. Having recently handled a left-ejecting upper on a standard right-hand lower, I can appreciate how this makes the M400 a much easier rifle to handle for left-handed shooters. In right-handed use, I found the bolt release lever helpful for shooting from sandbags: I could load the magazine but keep the bolt open until the rifle was aimed again, both to maximize barrel cooling airflow and to keep the muzzle pointed in the safest possible direction once the gun returned to battery. The implementation of the streamlined controls was done well, with the off-size controls not interfering with handling. In effect, SIG implemented some of MCX-SPEAR features in a more affordable product line.

Similarly, an ambidextrous 90-degree safety lever is short enough to not impinge on the shooter's thumb, but long and wide enough to be easily operated. Both receiver halves are extensively machined, with proper fencing for controls against accidental activation, and with smoothly radiused edges against skin abrasion.

Curiously, the flats around the safety levers retain visible machining marks that are absent everywhere else: they look more like a fashion statement than an oversight, given the smooth and clean finish everywhere else on the receiver. The fit between the upper and the lower is excellent.

The charging handle is likewise ambi, and can be activated from either side or from both at once. While ejection is right-side only, the empties come out on a far enough forward angle to clear the shooter in any stance, even if bladed from the left shoulder.

The free-floating forend is thin enough for a comfortable hold, wide enough to provide adequate separation of the hand from the hot barrel. Standard weight barrel is threaded 1/2x28, and provided with an effective closed-bottom cage flash hider augmented with small compensator

SIG M400 SDI X series is the most recent incremental development of the product line started in 2010.

Greatly multi-featured Romeo 4SXT-PRO red dot is a fitting companion sight for this rifle.

openings at the top. The comp isn't concussive but does its job keeping the muzzle down.

Romeo 4XT-PRO red dot offers four reticles: 2MOA dot, 2MOA dot inside 65MOA circle, and the same two with the addition of three progressively smaller BDC dots.

Running on a single AAA battery, this is a lightweight and streamlined sight well-suited to defensive use of the M400. It comes with integrated front and rear caps, and Killflash attachment. Waterproof and rated to 50,000 hours on a battery, it also turns off the reticle after two minutes of immobility, snapping back on at any motion

Original design ambi controls, including the right-side bolt release lever, are very well implemented.

Safety levers and left-side magazine release are easily accessible without getting in the way during actual shooting.

At first glance, the design looks conventional, but the extra left-side magazine release gives it away.

of the rifle. While this is the sight to have for defense, I wanted more magnification for testing accuracy.

The EOTech Vudu 1-6x FFP scope is one of the few to do a good job with a first focal plane reticle in an LPVO. It is water-resistant, with membrane switches for illumination on/off and brightness settings. Gray finish reduces heating up in the sun. A 65MOA outer circle similar to 4XT-PRO's works well for rapid acquisition at low or no magnification. The faint central crosshairs work for finer aiming in good light. Past 2x magnification, the center crosshairs become the main aiming mechanism, and at 4x MRAD subtensions on the crosshair become clearly visible. Ranging and holdovers work the same at all magnifications. 6x maximum magnification is reasonable up to the maximum effective range of 5.56mm from a 16-inch barrel.

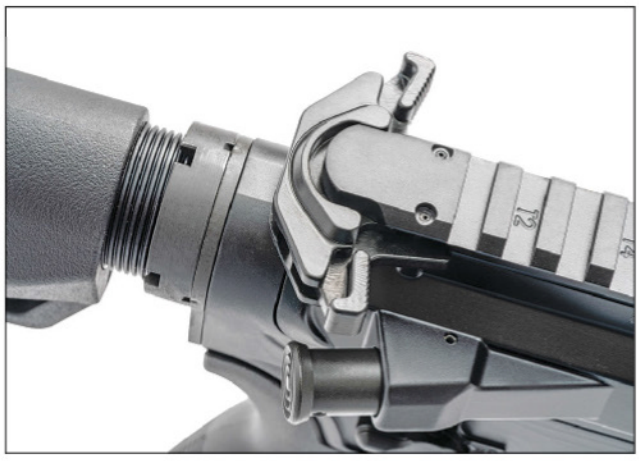
Zeroing this rifle took just three rounds, the first one at 10 yards to roughly center the reticle, another at 60 to verify, and a third to click the necessary adjustments to ensure 100 yard zero. That's the joy of working with an accurate rifle.

Felt recoil, as is usual for an AR15, was notable only by its absence. The textured rubber recoil pad is there more for a secure connection to the shoulder than for recoil reduction.

This is where my sole complaint with the rifle comes in: the trigger weight. It felt heavier than expected, and my

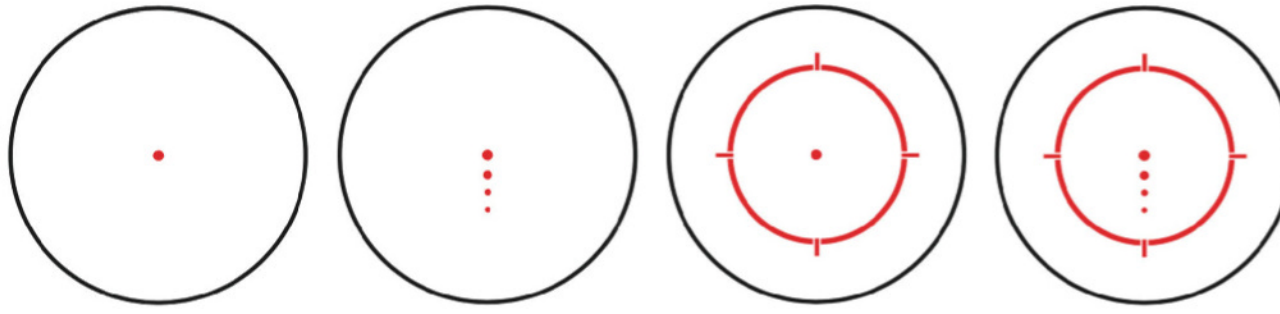
All SIG rifles are made in New Hampshire, one of the best states for 2A.

Fit and finish inside are as clean as on the outside, with no burrs or machining marks.



◄ Ambi charging handle is easy to reach even under overhanging scopes.

► The flash hider/compensator is slightly longer than the military A2, and seems to be more effective.



ROMEO4XT-PRO
2 MOA RED DOT BALLISTIC CIRCLE DOT
SOR44001 [BLACK] SOR44002 [FDE]

The four reticle options.

Vudu 1-6x FFP scope allows accurate ranging using the reticle at any magnification.

analog gauge measured it between 4.5 and seven pounds, depending on how quickly I pulled. As a result, my first few groups had excessive horizontal dispersion, after which I remembered Appleseed riflemen workshops and got accurate.

The ergonomic pistol grip with a high beavertail made it easy. Apparently, SIG anticipated my concern, as their website now lists a flat blade adjustable match DH3 trigger as standard for the rifle, rather than the more basic two-stage version I have. The targets speak for themselves. Unfortunately, I had to shoot them from 60 yards as my 100-yard position was not accessible.

Given the fast 1:7-barrel twist, heavier bullets may perform even better, but I would prefer to try that once I lighten the trigger — the current limit on accuracy is probably my own skill set. Excellent performance with match ammunition is no surprise, but 1.5 MOA groups with defensive ammunition are a big plus for this rifle, considering the likely use on medium game like pigs. Defensive fights tend to happen close enough that

Minimal recoil allows safe firing even from unorthodox positions.

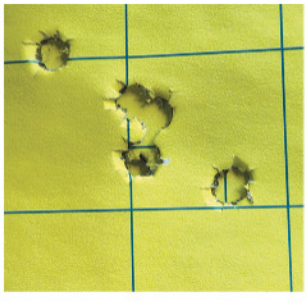
Simple and easily adjustable, Magpul SL stock proved very comfortable.

Without finger grooves, SIG pistol grip fits various size hands well.

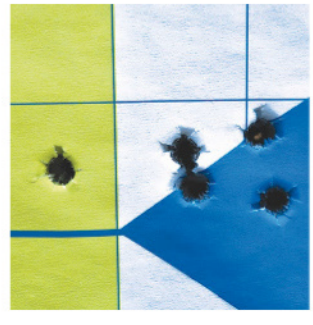
SIG M400- SDI X SERIES RIFLE

Brand	Weight (gr.)	Avg Group (in.)	Best Group (in.)
Hornady Frontier BTHP Match	68	1.02	.96
Hornady Frontier FMJ	55	1.39	1.27
Corbon T-DPX	62	.99	.90
Federal Matchking BTHP	69	.66	.60

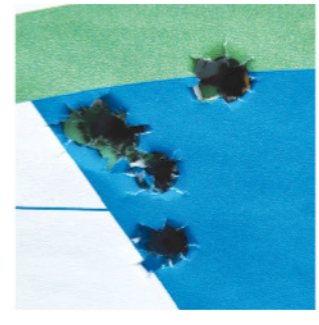
Test firing was done at 60 yards with front and rear support on sandbags, with 1-6x Vudu scope at 6x.



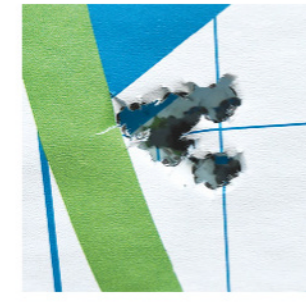
Hornady Frontier BTHP 69-grain Match.



Hornady Frontier 55-grain FMJ.



Corbon 62-grain T-DPX.



Federal Matchking 69-grain BTHP.

Although endowed with extra ambi controls, M400 SDI field-strips like any other AR15. The upper to lower fit is tight and even.

M400 SDI feels good in hand.

mechanical accuracy matters less. Good accuracy is, however, an indicator that everything in this rifle comes together consistently, with no need to "work in surfaces" as is the case with lower-quality guns. For defensive use, I ran the rifle off-hand with the scope set to 1x and 2x: target acquisition was rapid, accuracy sufficient to get torso hits out to 75 yards.

What else does this rifle need before it can be deployed? I would add a light/laser combination: it can be placed far enough forward to avoid beam occlusion by the muzzle. A laser can be a useful secondary aiming method without raising the rifle to eye level. Other than that, range time and a dope chart. One reason why I used an MRAD scope rather than one with pre-calculated BDC reticle is the barrel length: 16 inches produces lower velocity than the test barrel for which most scopes are calibrated. At 300 yards, the discrepancy is small, by 400 it amounts to several inches of extra drop. For example, with 100 yard zero, 500 yard hold would be half-way between the 3rd and the 4th reticle hash marks. While different bullet weights vary slightly in points of impact, this setting is for Federal Gold Match 69 grain, a more sensible load for distance than something this rifle shoots less accurately.

SIG barrel is 4130 chromoly steel, very durable: this rifle can be expected to keep its accuracy for a long time. Combining excellent ambi interface and thus-far perfect reliability, M400 SDI has handily won a spot on the range favorites rack. Using it, I can concentrate on practicing tactics and marksmanship without distractions of function failures or poor accuracy. Rifles that feel good in hand usually shoot better, and this M400 SDI definitely fits me right and performs above reasonable expectations. FN

SIG M400- SDI X SERIES RIFLE	
SKU:	RM400-SDI-16B-P
Caliber:	5.56 NATO
Mags Included:	(1) 30 rd. Polymer Mag
Magazine:	AR15 (STANAG)
Action Type:	Semi-Auto
Operating System:	Direct Impingement
Stock:	Magpul SL
Barrel:	16 in. Chrome/Moly Steel
Twist Rate:	1:7
Trigger Type:	SIG Flat Blade Match
Forend Type:	Free-Floate M-LOK
Receiver:	Aluminum Alloy, Black Anodized
Overall Length:	33.5 in.
Overall Width:	2.8 in.
Height:	7.5 in.
Weight:	7.0 lbs.
MSRP:	$1,500
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THE TIPPMANN ORDNANCE .22LR GATLING GUN

The Coolest Firearm in the World

By Will Dabbs, MD

You are clearly a gun nerd or you wouldn't currently be clutching this sacred tome. In my case, I bought my first BB gun at seven and my first handgun, a replica Colt 1851 Navy in kit form, at age thirteen. I began writing for the gun press in 1991. Trust me, I have enthusiastically jogged out to meet the "Brown Truck of Happiness" anxiously anticipating something new, black, and oily on more than a few occasions. Each new gun sets my heart aflutter to one degree or another. And then there was this bad boy. I think this may be the coolest thing I have ever seen.

Tippmann used to make the most adorable scale-model belt-fed rimfire machineguns. Prior to the accursed 1986 machinegun ban, they were actually offered in full auto. The little M1919 and M1917 fired .22 LR. Their scale model Ma Deuce ran .22 Magnum. Of late those guys have been branching out.

A few years ago, Tippmann debuted the cutest little 9mm hand-powered Gatling Gun. This rascal was about the size of a small dorm fridge and rode about on knobby pneumatic tires. It fed via Glock magazines and fired 9mm Parabellum as fast as you could spin the crank. Limitations of the language prevent me from adequately describing how much fun it was to run that thing.

While 9mm Para is about the cheapest centerfire cartridge around, this contraption still burned through that stuff at a prodigious clip. When fed using 33-round stick magazines, it was easy to expend an astronomical amount of ammunition in a short period of time. If only there was something cheaper…

Vintage pre-ban M1917 and M1919 Tippmann miniature machineguns ran .22 LR from cloth belts. (Rock Island Auctions)

The latest mechanical miracle to sprout from the Tippmann skunk works is their crank-powered miniature Gatling Gun in .22LR. Holy snap! This adorable little rotating smoke pole is cuter than a box full of beagle puppies. The gun comes with a custom scale tripod and is belt-fed via proprietary polymer non-disintegrating linked belts. The whole shebang is small enough to conceivably sit comfortably on the side of your desk at work.

This scale model Tippmann M-2 HB fired .22 Magnum rounds which is makes sense. (Rock Island Auctions)

Sporting six 8.5-inch barrels and weighing fifteen pounds on its own custom tripod, the Tippmann .22LR Gatling Gun makes a serious statement anyplace two or more firearms enthusiasts are gathered together. We can't help it. It's like admiring somebody's toddler. You can't keep your hands off this thing.

Fascinating Details

For starters the Tippmann .22LR Gatling Gun is neither a rifle nor a handgun. There is a copy of the BATF approval letter that accompanies the weapon. The BATF guys clearly put a lot of thought into the specific categorization.

As the gun comes with a tripod it is clearly not intended to be fired offhand. Pawing over it, I'm not sure anybody is actually that flexible. There is no provision for a buttstock, but it is hardly a pistol, either. In the final analysis, the Tippmann .22LR Gatling Gun is simply a firearm. Tippmann is therefore free to mount up any length barrels they might desire. However, there are some caveats to that.

Let's go ahead and address the big honking gorilla in the room. As much as you might want to, you cannot hook an electric motor onto the Tippmann Gatling Gun and make yourself a scale model minigun. That would create a weapon that fires more than one round with a single activation of the trigger. According to American firearms law at least, this would apparently trigger an extinction-level event for all of humanity. (Yes, that would make it an unregistered/illegal machinegun.) The BATF paper specifically addresses that.

Additionally, if the gun can be somehow managed offhand, the generic "firearm" designation is called into question. As a result, the weapon is connected to its adorable little tripod via blind rivets so you can't dismount it. The rig comes with a nifty little T&E (traverse and elevation) mechanism capable of precise adjustments to windage and elevation. The T&E will come

The Tippmann Ordnance 9mm Gatling Gun rides about on pneumatic tires and feeds from Glock mags.

The Tippmann Ordnance Rimfire Gatling Gun really is adorable. The Desert Eagle pistol shows just how scaled down it is.

Umm, nope. As much as we'd like to, you cannot mount an electric motor onto the side of the Tippmann .22LR Gatling Gun to make a rimfire minigun. My, but wouldn't that be cool? (Public domain)

loose from the tripod. It is also technically removable from the gun. None of that matters. This little cherub of a firearm was literally born to run off of a mount.

The end result is appropriately scaled and just cute as a button. The gun comes fully assembled and ready-to-run.

As it comes out of the box, the barrel assembly is secured in place with a plastic lock. If you can tie your own shoes you can get this rascal into action. Once you have loaded up a belt and gotten this puppy oriented on the firing line, be prepared to make some new friends. Everybody will want a piece of this baby.

Feeding the Beast

Everything about the Tippmann Gatling gun is just so freaking cool. It comes with fifty individual polymer links that snap together to form a continuous belt. They seem more than adequately robust for a long service life. Additional belts work out to a buck a link on the Tippmann website.

Once the belt is formed, flip it over so the open side faces up. Then snap your .22LR rounds in place one at a time. The links are massively oversized for the little rimfire rounds, but they are also exceptionally easy to load. Lots of machinegun belts will wreck your fingers if you spend an evening loading them in front of Netflix. Not so in this case. The links hold the rounds securely but are painless to charge.

Once you have a loaded belt, pivot up the feed cover to expose the inner workings of the gun. There are six barrels, six bolts, and an integral feed mechanism. A cam machined into the inside of the steel housing accepts each individual bolt and guides it through its travel. The gun fires at the roughly 3 o'clock position when viewed from the rear and ejects out the bottom. The basic Gatling Gun is arguably the most reliable repeating firearm ever devised.

Place the belt in the action with the links up. "Brass to the grass" is the way that old machinegun instructor

The gun is permanently attached to its tripod via blind rivets.

The traverse and elevation mechanism is technically removable. It allows precise adjustment to the gun on the tripod.

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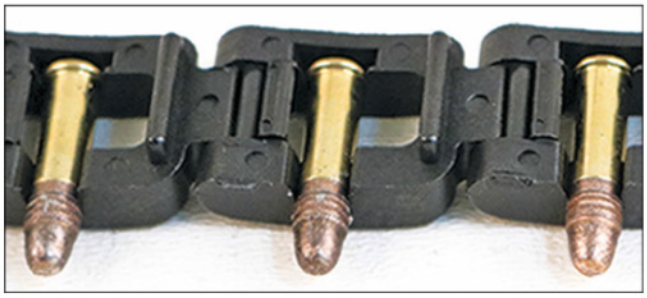
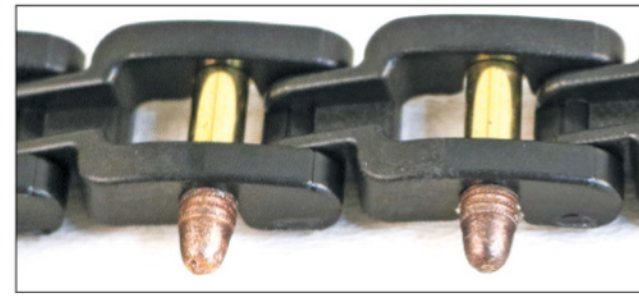
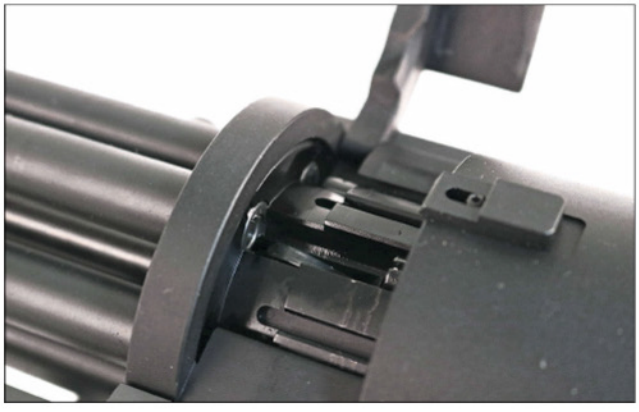




The belts consist of individual polymer links that snap together. Charging belts with .22LR cartridges is quick, easy, and painless.



A pivoting feed cover gives access to the gun's inner workings for loading.

The manual of arms is easily mastered. The Tippmann Rimfire Gatling Gun was completely reliable with everything I fed it.

first taught me back in the late Mesozoic when I wore the uniform. Once the belt is in place, just snap the feed cover back down, orient the gun toward something you dislike, and get ready to unleash chaos.

Technical Details

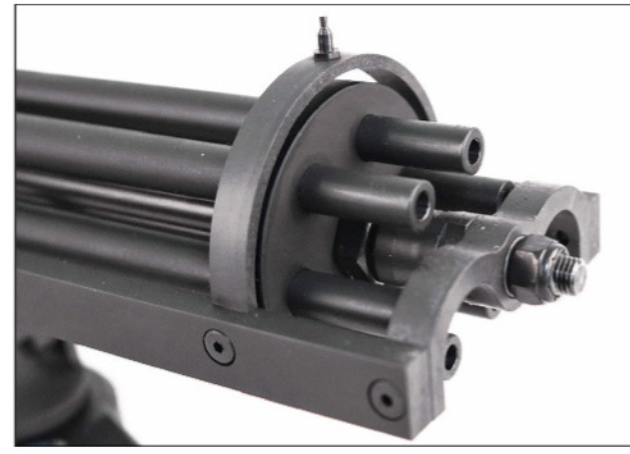
The Tippmann rimfire Gatling Gun sports its six barrels oriented around a central shaft. The entire gun is finished in an attractive and durable matte black. There is a single wooden handle in the back for your weak hand. The gun will fire as fast as you can spin the crank.

The action loosens up quickly over time. Once you take its measure, this thing will run like a scalded ape. I would estimate the most comfortable rate of fire as faster than a Grease Gun but slower than an M-4. Perhaps 500–550 rpm.

The belt links do not disintegrate in use. If you really want to keep things tidy just hook the belt up in a continuous loop. You know the gun is empty when it stops firing. If ever you have a dud round, something that does happen from time to time with bulk-packed rimfire ammo, the gun just spits the dead cartridge out and keeps going.

The T&E mechanism allows you to do surprisingly precise shooting should the spirit lead. Seat the tripod down firmly and fire one round at a time, and the gun shoots plenty straight. The front sight is a fixed post. The two-position sliding rear unit is readily adjustable for both windage and elevation without tools. However, that's not what this gun is really designed for.

You don't invest in a rimfire Gatling Gun because you want to punch contiguous cloverleaves at 100 meters. You buy a Gatling Gun so you can saturate your range space with zippy little 40-grain bullets. That Tippmann Gatling Gun does that very well, thank you very much. Out to 25 meters or so, fifty rounds in a continuous burst will eat a hole in your backstop about the size of a golf ball.



The classic multi-barrel architecture of the Tippmann Rimfire Gatling Gun is nothing short of iconic.

RUBEN MENDIOLA

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Running the gun with the T&E mechanism adds an extra layer of cool.

I bought myself a case of .22 rimfire rounds and shot this gun until my arm was sore. Set up behind a comfortable table and get ready for a whole new shooting experience. Do the same thing at a public range and dates with supermodels will invariably follow.

Ruminations

So, what's the Tippmann rimfire Gatling Gun actually good for? Don't know, don't care. You can't hunt with it. The home defense applications are pretty limited as well. There's really not much practical defensive work that this scale rimfire Gatling Gun will do that a cheap cop-surplus Glock pistol won't do way better. However, once you pull in behind this thing it will grab you and not let go.

Your Call of Duty fantasy genre might be running a minigun out of an MH-60 Blackhawk in the skies over Mogadishu. Or perhaps you'd sooner brave the rapids alongside Rooster Cogburn while using a vintage Gatling Gun to defend Katherine Hepburn. The Tippmann rimfire Gatling Gun will reliably scratch that itch. However, now that I've hopefully gotten you all hot and bothered over this thing, here's the bad news: The MSRP for the Tippmann .22-caliber Gatling Gun is a cool $4,600. That's some serious money.

Given what went into building this gun, that number is really not unreasonable. This is the mechanical equivalent of six separate custom-designed .22 rifles all orchestrated and synchronized to fire around a central shaft. The workmanship is superb, and the engineering sublime.

A single wooden handgrip helps keep the gun steady.

The flip-adjustable rear sight is readily adjustable without tools.

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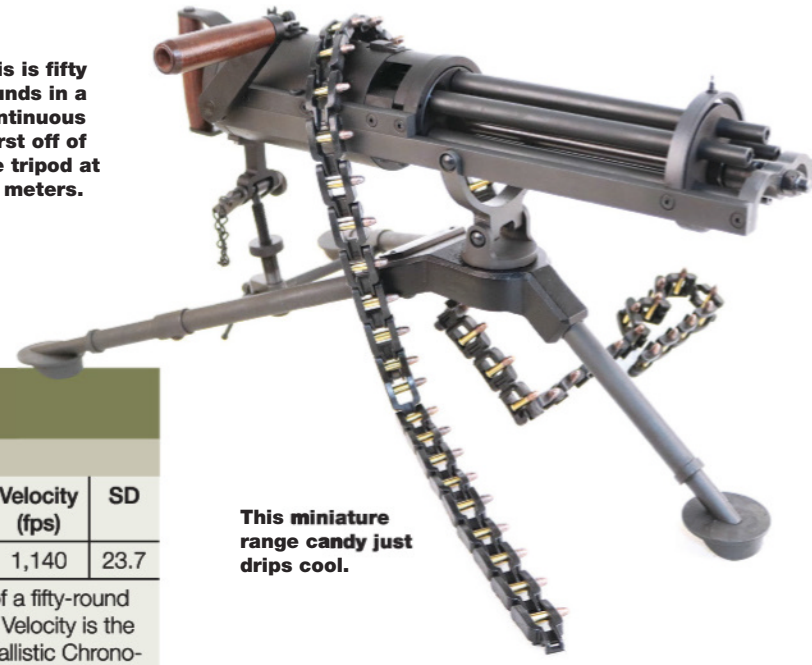
This is fifty rounds in a continuous burst off of the tripod at 25 meters.



This miniature range candy just drips cool.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS
TIPPMANN RIMFIRE GATLING GUN

25 METERS

Load	Group Size (in.)	Velocity (fps)	SD
Winchester Wildcat 40gr plated	2.5	1,140	23.7

Group size is the edge-to-edge measurement of a fifty-round burst fired off of the tripod mount at 25 meters. Velocity is the average of ten rounds fired across a Caldwell Ballistic Chronograph located ten feet from the muzzle.

The classic scene where John Wayne unlimbers his Gatling Gun from a raft on a raging river in *Rooster Cogburn* is Western movie gold. (MovieStillsDB.com)

The Tippmann Ordnance .22 LR Rimfire Gatling Gun is cute as a button and just sinfully cool.

Additionally, unlike most guns that are this cool, there are no onerous transfer taxes or paperwork. The Tippmann .22 rimfire Gatling Gun transfers through your local FFL just like a conventional rifle.

This won't be anybody's first firearm. In fact, you will land your own Tippmann .22 rimfire Gatling Gun only if you have all of your needs and most of your wants addressed already. However, for those well-heeled gun nerds who are ready to take things to the next level, the adorable little Tippmann rimfire Gatling Gun scratches a particularly hard-to-reach itch. Inspired, inimitably reliable, and just a ton of fun, running a brick or two through the Tippmann rimfire Gatling Gun is the best way I know of to kill a lazy Saturday afternoon. FN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
TIPPMANN RIMFIRE GATLING GUN

Caliber:	.22LR
Barrel Length:	8.5 in.
Overall Length:	18 in.
Weight:	15 lbs.
Action:	Hand-Cranked Rotary
Feed:	Non-Disintegrating Polymer Belt
Number of Barrels:	6
Sights:	Fixed Front, Flip-Adjustable Two-Position Rear
Mount:	Permanently-Attached Tripod with T&E Mechanism
Cyclic Rate:	Operator Dependent
MSRP:	$4,600
Contact:	(260) 305-3365, TippmannOrdnance.com

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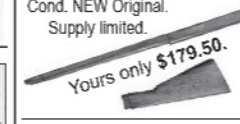

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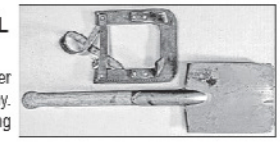

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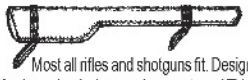

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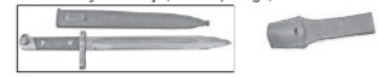

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The Rapid Air Worx HM1000 MicroHunter is one seriously sexy little air rifle.

THE RAPID AIR WORX HM1000 MICROHUNTER

A Radically Advanced Compact Pre-Charged Pneumatic Carbine

By Will Dabbs, MD

The Rapid Air Worx HM1000 MicroHunter is a radically advanced, compact, pre-charged pneumatic carbine with all the bells and whistles. With an overall length of 27 inches and a weight of only 5.6 pounds, the HM1000 MicroHunter chassis occupies roughly the same space as a typical 9mm submachine gun. In addition to being accurate, reliable, versatile, and effective, this spunky little rat popper is also very, very cool.

Details

Everything about the HM1000 MicroHunter is beautifully executed. It is also made in the USA, which is a refreshing

Svelte, sleek, compact, and cool, the HM1000 MicroHunter occupies a unique spot in the modern pantheon of pre-charged air rifles.

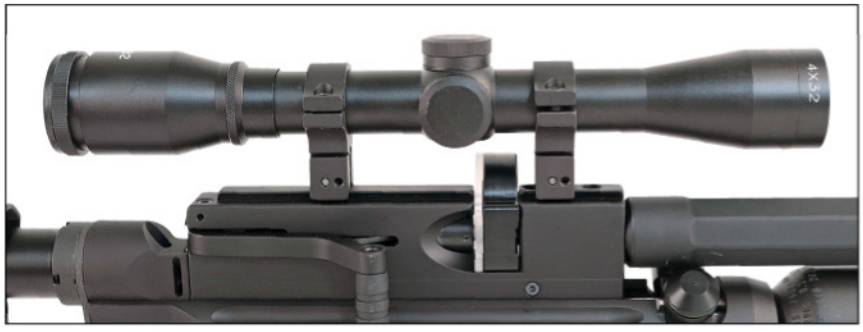
thing these days. There are M-LOK slots on the sides for accessories and an 11mm top rail for optics. This is the standard for rimfire mounts, though AirForce offers a Picatinny adaptor if desired. The pistol grip is standard AR fare.

The safety is a pivoting tab located inside of the trigger guard. Forward is fire, and rearward is safe. This appendage is philosophically similar to that of the M1 Garand only much smoother to use.

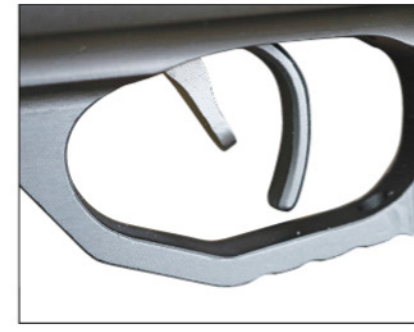
The trigger trips a valve rather than a sear, so it is positively diaphanous and nigh heavenly. No kidding, you need to play with this a bit to take its measure. This is one legit awesome trigger. In fact, everything about the HM1000 is designed to be both precise and rugged. Once you take its measure, this nifty little gun is fast, accurate, and intuitive.

The action is a manually-operated repeater that feeds from a 12-round rotary magazine. Mounting up a fresh mag involves locking the side-lever action open with the handy right-sided actuator handle and slipping the magazine in from the left side. The tapered rammer is self-centering, so it will properly orient the magazine automatically when you close the action. Once you have the gun

The HM1000 MicroHunter is handy, maneuverable, and fun.



The HM1000 MicroHunter is grooved for a rimfire scope. AirForce Airguns offers an adaptor for standard centerfire glass if desired.



The trigger on the HM1000 MicroHunter is beautifully light.

charged up, you just cycle each round via the side-mounted handle. After the last round is fired, the magazine prevents the bolt from closing fully. This lets you know it is time to reload.

The gun comes with a 210cc built-in air cylinder with an adjustable regulator and integrated pressure gauge. The rifle is available in both right and left-hand versions in .177, .22, and .25 calibers. Our test gun was the manly .25-caliber version.

The two-stage adjustable flat-faced trigger is indeed match grade, while the buffer tube is AR compatible. The stock that comes with the gun is readily adjustable for both length of pull and comb height. The overall effect is compact, lightweight, and thoroughly sexy cool.

Power

The HM1000 MicroHunter backs up its rakish good looks with comparably rarefied performance. This is a Pre-Charged Pneumatic (PCP) air rifle. That means it packs an onboard air cylinder that must be charged via an external source. The up side is that the gun remains sleek and trim without any extraneous air compressing apparatus onboard. The down side is that it takes a little equipment to keep this beast fed and running. There are basically three ways to get there.

The most basic is a hand pump. AirForce Airguns will sell you one, and it is a top-flight piece of kit. This rig looks like a bicycle pump on steroids and is as reliable as the tides. The down side is that it is a workout of the highest order to keep a PCP airgun fed and happy with one of these puppies. Spend an afternoon in the field or at the range with one of these rascals, and you will have gotten your exercise for the week.

The second method is a scuba tank. I got mine off of eBay, and it wasn't terribly expensive. Be patient and pick up a used example, and they can be positively cheap. However, be forewarned that scuba tanks must be pressure tested periodically before a commercial fill station will service them. If you live on the beach that is likely not a big deal. For a landlocked guy like me, it is a one-hour drive to a pool supply place that can top off my scuba tank. The tank will last a long time on a fill, but that's a hassle. The best way to keep your PCP gun running is a home-sized high-pressure air compressor.

A standard shop compressor won't cut it, I'm afraid. Those inexpensive Home Depot pancake compressors are great for pneumatic tools and keeping your tires fat and healthy. However, they don't come close to getting the

The 12-round rotary magazine feeds from the left and is held in place by the tapered rammer.

The action of the HM1000 MicroHunter is so precisely machined that it does not require an O-ring seal.

It's Going to the Dogs, What Can I Do?

Yes, our good ol country is going to the dogs. Maybe, some of you think (I can't argue it) "already gone to the dogs…"

It should concern you.

Maybe even enough for you to bestir yourself, and ask an important question: What should I be doing about it?

Because you MUST do something. Anything else is cowardice, right? "Refusal to fight" is not something to be proud of. Neither is giving up before you make an effort, because "it's too late, Fred".

Shameful. Do you still have, unlike most of our modern Americans, a concept of "shame"?

Think of those starving soldiers freezing at Valley Forge. What would they make of you as you lay there on the couch, all nice and warm, with a full belly, pontificating about "it's too late".

I'll tell you what they'd think: "Let's go home; there's no use spilling our blood for our useless descendants…they're not worth my little fingernail." Chokes you up with pride, right?

Believe it or not, the answer to "what can I do" can be easy:

Consider: The great Founders of this nation repeatedly said liberty was safe on this continent so long as the American people were educated and alert.

Is there anyone reading this right now who believes the American people are "educated"?

Yes, they know all about "diversity" and many can name all 57 genders. But does that make them "educated"?

And how about "alert"? I believe the founders intended being "alert" to dangers to our constitutional system of government or, more simply, to liberty.

Yet we currently live in an upside-down world where the ones parroting about the "danger to democracy" are the very ones intent on tearing it down.

I would think it easy to get someone to "alert" status, understanding you need to be alert to the real threat.

Obvious, because once you get someone "educated", the dangers facing this country today are so obvious the educated person will instantly become alert to the threats.

So education leads to hearing the alarm bells, and education is therefore the important first step for a person. It's the "educated" part that takes on the current flood of ignorance, apathy, and laziness in which the country is drowning. So, it's important to know what "educated" means.

I suggest it's an understanding about what this country is all about. An understanding of why, when the Treaty of Paris ending the Rev War was signed, there were suddenly 3 million brand-new sovereign citizens on a planet where before there were only a few dozen — all kings.

The fastest way to educate someone is to tell them the story of April 19th, 1775. Not the story no longer taught in school, but the real history of men and women who rose up on that day long ago and took on the world's mightiest empire with single-shot smoothbore muzzle-loading firearms — and kept at it for 8 long bloody years, until that magic day they — each and every one of them - became sovereign citizens. No longer subjects of the crown.

Telling this story is a key component of Project Appleseed, which is why you should attend one, and bring everyone you can with you — friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers — the whole works!

Stay tuned for "What can I do?" Part 2.

Meantime, get your shooting skills up to speed by ordering our "Freds Guide to Becoming a Rifleman". Order two sets: **1.** To meet our minimum order of $75 **2**. So you can gift one to a friend, relative, co-worker, or neighbor. You DON'T want to be the ONLY Rifleman on your street….

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The 210cc onboard air cylinder includes its own pressure gauge.

sort of numbers required to keep your PCP gun charged. That requires a dedicated high-pressure compressor.

The most convenient solution is a Nomad portable high-pressure air compressor from Pyramyd Air. This nifty little rig is about the size of a small cooler and runs off of 110/220 volt wall power or a car battery. It has a top-end pressure limit of 4,500 psi, roughly ten times that of a standard shop compressor. The larger the PCP tank, the longer it takes to charge. However, larger tanks last longer as well. The Nomad sports easy-to-use controls and includes a blowout feature so it doesn't get carried away and become dangerous. The latest version runs about $800, but you never have to run that hand pump or fret with your scuba tank again. Once you get past that not-insubstantial investment your ammo costs plummet.

Interesting Tidbits

Running the HM1000 MicroHunter is just a ton of fun. The stubby little gun is unnaturally maneuverable and looks like a prop from a *Star Wars* movie. It also shoots really straight. We typically got through three 12-round magazines before air pressure started to fall sufficiently to demand a top-off.

The bolt won't close over a magazine unless there is a pellet loaded. That just means you store the gun with the magazine removed. Additionally, when the gun comes the air tank is just a bit loose. Your first high pressure fill seats everything nicely. After that the particulars are tight as a tick.

The gun needs to be pointed muzzle down when you cycle the bolt. Otherwise the pellets are bad to slide backwards and jam the action. However, once you learn the gun's personality it runs like a sewing machine. Little bullets like the 31-grain H&N Grizzlies we tested lack skirts and don't have that problem.

Interestingly, the breech seal is established via some really tight manufacturing tolerances rather than an O-ring as might be the case on lesser guns. This means one less potential failure point. It also means the gun will run longer with less maintenance. I have been collecting guns for half a century. Synthetic buffers and rubber bits will predictably deteriorate over time. The less of that stuff the better.

I topped my MicroHunter off with a 4x rifle scope from AirForce Airguns. This moderate-power optic optimizes the MicroHunter for

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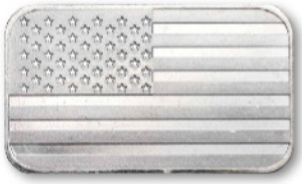

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.25-caliber airgun pellets carry a fair amount of downrange thump. Here we see several designs alongside a standard .22LR round for size comparison.

The adjustable stock on the HM1000 MicroHunter fits on a standard M4 buffer tube.

close to mid-range performance. The gun would be well-served with a decent red dot as well. For bunnies and tree rats, the MicroHunter is a superb close-range game getter.

Mounting a proper sling on the gun requires an M-LOK sling mount up front. The buttstock includes sling sockets on both sides. Thusly configured, the MicroHunter is eminently packable.

So, What's It Good For?

That's an interesting question. I found the gun to be hearing safe without muffs. As such I could sit on my back porch and shoot stuff all afternoon while using my Nomad compressor to recharge the beast when the tank pressure began to drop. The soft report ensures that you don't annoy the neighbors unduly. This same attribute helps keep you stealthy in the field on a hunt. If you like to shoot stuff, then exploding dirt clods, ringing steel, mangling pennies, and punching paper will reliably cure what ails you.

Typical 25-caliber pellets run about 25 grains. My gun pushes those pellets to a monotonous 725 feet per second—like it shoots within a couple feet per second of that number for the first couple dozen shots. The MicroHunter is amazingly consistent. While you wouldn't want to shoot anything much

The basic hand pump from AirForce Airguns will last forever, but it is a workout to keep a decent-sized PCP air rifle fed with it.

A standard scuba tank is not terribly expensive, but you need a handy place to get it charged.

The adorable little Air Venturi Nomad home PCP air compressor will keep your pre-charged pneumatic airguns spunky and happy.

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The .25-caliber HM1000 MicroHunter is naturally subsonic and doesn't make much noise.

larger than a coyote with it, for bunnies and tree rats, the MicroHunter is pure death. That makes it a superb tool for subsistence small game hunting and survival. Skirted pellets were beautifully accurate. The little 31-grain Grizzly miniature bullets printed wider groups but also offered very consistent velocities.

When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked on their Corps of Discovery Expedition, back in 1804, they were equipped with the best weapons and gear money could buy. Amidst a variety of state of the art weapons was included an Austrian-made .46-caliber Girandoni air rifle. This revolutionary weapon fed lead balls from a twenty-round tubular magazine and carried enough downrange thump to kill a deer. Charging the weapon required 1,500 strokes on a hand pump.

The reason Lewis and Clark humped this revolutionary ten-pound air rifle halfway across the continent was two-fold. First, it was a manually-operated repeater in an era of single-shot flintlock muskets. The

ADVERTISEMENT

Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America's worsening memory crisis?

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA — Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It's the coenzyme that supercharges the "energy factories" in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there's a serious flaw that's leaving millions unsatisfied.

As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old.

Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there's one critical thing it fails to do: it can't create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lost.

And that's bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older.

"We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything," says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. "Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria."

Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, "This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That's the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power."

This exciting nutrient — called PQQ *(pyrroloquinoline quinone)* — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control.

Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel II** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel II** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand.

Over 47 million doses have been shipped to men and women across the country and sales continue to climb for this much sought-after brain fuel. In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel II** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel II** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory.

People feel more energetic, more alert, and don't need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more.

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears's patients. "I'm in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel II** every day."

You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPBF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears's lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.

Will Ultra Accel II Multiply Your Energy?

Ultra Accel II is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your "spark for life."

So, if you've noticed less energy as you've gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief.

The secret is the "energy multiplying" molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of new "energy factories" in your cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.

MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION: Top doctors are now recommending new Ultra Accel II because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor's visit.

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now.

Dr. Sears reports, "The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel II** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies… And they actually feel young again."

And his patients agree. "I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. "My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There's a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I've never experienced before."

How To Get Ultra Accel II

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel II** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch.

An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel II**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-800-891-7738** right now and use promo code **UAFIRE124** to secure your own supply.

Important: Due to **Ultra Accel II** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

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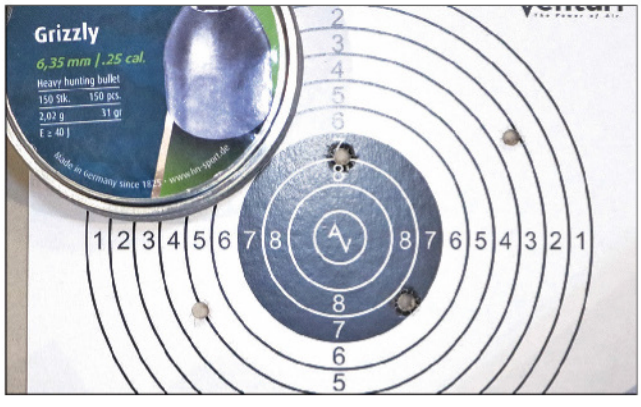

.25-caliber mini-bullets opened up a bit but offered monotonously consistent velocities.

RAW HM1000 MICROHUNTER

Load	Velocity (fps)	SD	Avg (in.)	Best (in.)
H&N Field Target Trophy 20.06 gr.	771	6.1	1.0	0.7
H&N Grizzly 31 gr.	632	6.2	2.2	1.8
JSB Match Diablo 25.39 gr.	725	4.6	0.6	0.25

Accuracy results reflect three five-shot groups at 25 meters from a sandbag rest. Velocities are the averages of ten shots measured with a Caldwell Ballistic Chronograph located twelve feet from the muzzle.

rate of fire impressed the locals. Second, you could power the gun using nothing more than muscle power. In the same way, the HM1000 MicroHunter can theoretically be maintained in the field with a hand pump. Like Lewis and Clark's Girandoni, you'll have to work at that. However, it can still be done.

Ruminations

More than anything, the HM1000 MicroHunter will remind you of the basic joys of shooting. There is just something primal and satisfying about setting this rascal up on a sandbag rest and punching contiguous holes at twenty-five meters. I could consistently land hits out three times that far. However, given the precision built into the gun's chassis and the amazingly consistent velocities, at twenty-five meters or so you could write your name with this thing. It also runs cleaner than a conventional firearm.

There is a learning curve to running a gun like this, and you have to be patient with recharging the air cylinder. However, for a seasoned shooter this really is a delightful process. Once you take its measure, the MicroHunter will remind you why you gravitated toward this weird hobby in the first place.

The HM1000 MicroHunter has an MSRP of $1,679.95. When combined with the requisite support gear, that's a chunk of change. This isn't the air rifle you gift little Junior for his thirteenth birthday. However, if you like to shoot and you're ready to take your ballistic addiction to the next level, this is the high-tech, high-performance machine to get you there. Sleek, svelte, sexy, and inimitably cool, the MicroHunter is the ultimate subcompact pre-charged pneumatic small game rifle. FN

RAW HM1000 MICROHUNTER

Caliber:	.25 (also available in .177 and .22)
Barrel Length:	8.5 in.
Overall Length:	27 in.
Weight:	5.6 lbs.
Action:	Multi-Shot, Side Lever
Trigger:	Fully Adjustable
Tank Volume:	210 cc
Optics Rail:	11mm
MSRP:	$1,679.95
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[Cont. from page 8]

proclaimed, "Today's ruling … is out of touch with the overwhelming majority of Americans." The Brady gun-ban group, formerly Handgun Control Inc., put this way: "The majority opinion has demonstrated that they do not care about what the majority of Americans want and support."

Other gun-ban groups immediately jumped on the "out of touch" bandwagon, and Americans were force fed a constant barrage of this opinion, which had no basis in fact.

Now, however, a new Marquette Law School poll gauging opinions on the Supreme Court has provided some facts to counter the fiction. While the study found a low overall approval of the Supreme Court's actions (41 percent), it revealed that an incredible 67% of respondents favored the ruling—more than twice as many as those who opposed it!

"Support for the ruling in *Bruen* has been … stable when asked in September and November, with just under two-thirds in favor of the ruling and one-third opposed," the report stated. "A differently worded question asked in 2022 found similar support for the decision among those who had heard of the ruling."

While the revelation of the support from *Bruen* will likely be surprising to those on the wrong side of the Second Amendment debate, it tracks with a recent NBC Poll showing for the first time that more American households include a gun owner than those that don't. That poll, released Nov. 21, showed a record level of gun ownership in America, with the majority of respondents—52%—reporting that they or someone in their household owns a firearm.

In the end, it turns out that gun-ban groups like Brady and Everytown are the ones who are actually "out of touch with most Americans." But that's likely no surprise to those of us who take everything they say with a big grain of salt. FN

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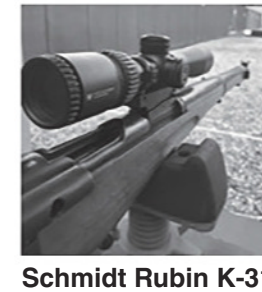

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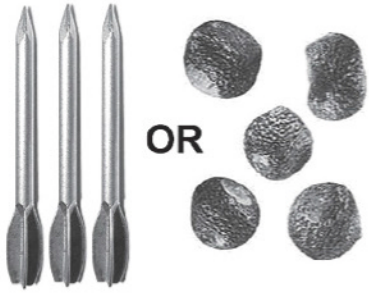

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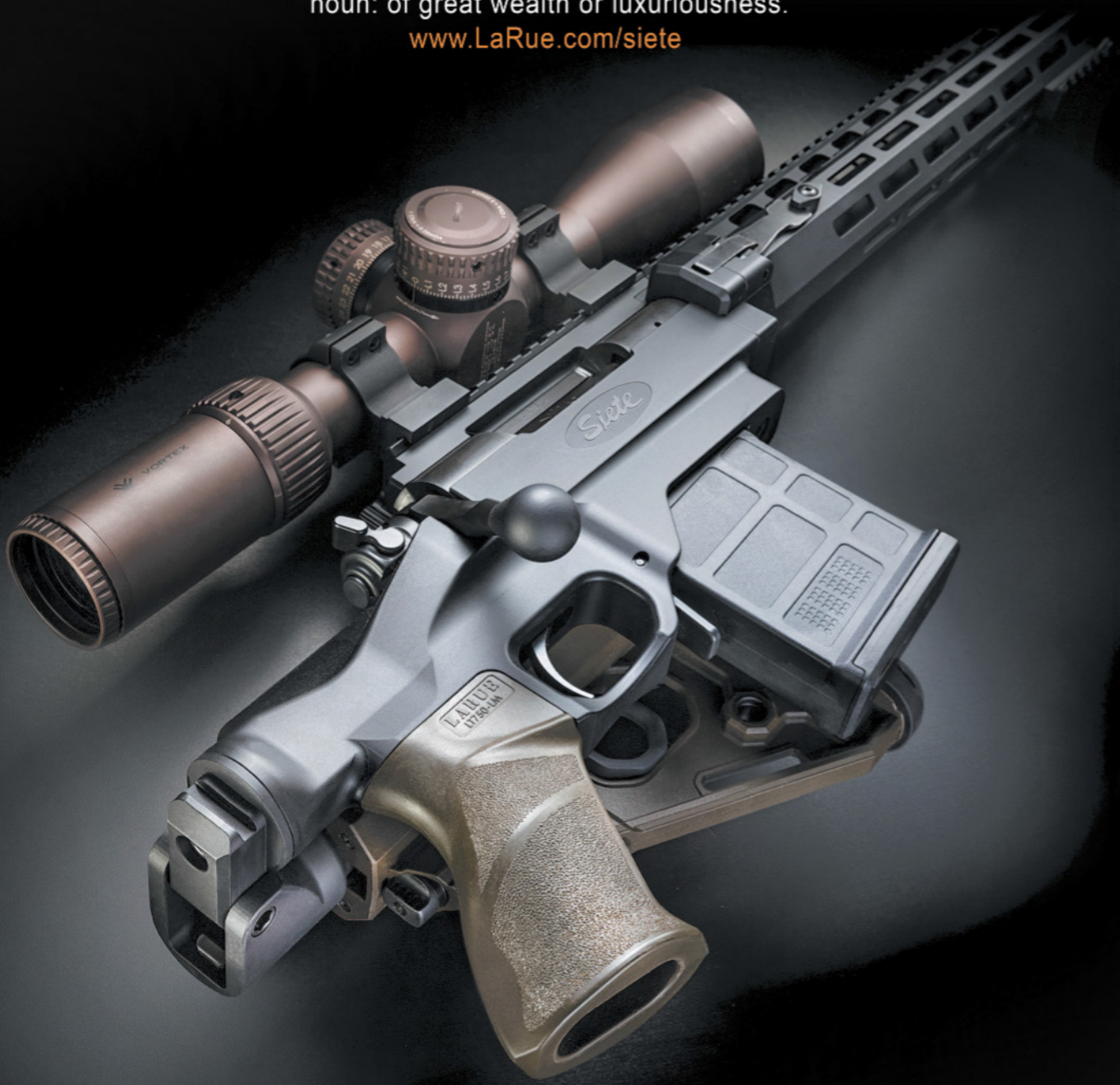

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